



**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**
2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.stjohnsws.com

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.
With Communion

**St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.**

(Please Stand)

Call To Worship

P: Teach us to number our days, O Lord!

C: We know that our Redeemer Lives!

P: Man is like the grass of the field, here today and gone tomorrow.

C: We know that, in our flesh, we shall see God.

P: These, all have died in faith, not having received the promises; but having seen them afar off, they were assured of them and they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. *Hebrews 11:13*

C: We know that in God’s house are many rooms and that Jesus has prepared a place for us.

P: All praise to the Triune God; Giver of Eternal Life; Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

All: O, Almighty God, we do confess that we are not worthy to live forever with You in the Holy Joy that is heaven. We do not deserve Your eternal love and blessing – not by who we are, or by what we have done. But, by faith, we rejoice in Your forgiveness and grace in Jesus. We claim the gift of eternal life, purchased for us through His blood. For the sake of your Perfect and Beloved Son – grant us everlasting life in heaven.

P: Jesus, our Savior, has opened the door of heaven for us. He has removed the sin that barred our way. He has defeated death and turned it into victory. Rejoice in and with Jesus. God has freely given you the gift of eternal life. Amen.

(Be Seated)

First Lesson: Amos 5:16-24 (“The Day of the Lord”)

Therefore the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, says this:

“There shall be wailing in all streets,

And they shall say in all the highways,

‘Alas! Alas!’

They shall call the farmer to mourning,

And skillful lamenters to wailing.

¹⁷ In all vineyards there shall be wailing,

For I will pass through you,”

Says the LORD.

¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you?

It *will be* darkness, and not light.

¹⁹ It *will be* as though a man fled from a lion,

And a bear met him!

Or *as though* he went into the house,

Leaned his hand on the wall,

And a serpent bit him!

²⁰ *Is* not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light?

Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

²¹ “I hate, I despise your feast days,

And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

²² Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,

I will not accept *them*,

Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

²³ Take away from Me the noise of your songs,

For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.

²⁴ But let justice run down like water,

And righteousness like a mighty stream.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14 (“The Day of the Lord”)

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36, 42-44 (“The Day of the Lord”)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

(Be Seated)

New Sermon Series: “Heaven is Real”

Today’s Message: “A Real Return”

**Music for Meditation: “Once in Royal David's City” # 376, Hymnal set by
Douglas Major**

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Words of Institution

(Be Seated)

Distribution: (Please maintain 6 feet safe space during Holy Communion)

Music during Communion:

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: “Prepare the Royal Highway” # 343, Hymnal set by Robert Lind

Altar Flowers: are given to the Glory of God Norm & Leatha Drouillard in honor of Norm Drouillard Sr.

Worship Leaders:

10:00am – Mark Meier; 11:15am – Bill Thorpe

Lector:

10:00am – Beth Fordham-Meier; 11:15am – Jackie Downey

Altar Guild for December: Karin Lennon, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach, Renee Henderson

Crisis Control Item of the Month: Saltine Crackers

If you would like to donate food to Crisis Control Ministry. Please drop the food off in the basket in the back of the church. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

147 lbs. of food was collected for the month of November! Thank you all for your generous donations!

Sign-up for Altar Flowers for 2021

The 2021 Sunday flower sign-up sheets are now in the book in the narthex. Sign up now to get the Sunday you want in 2021! Thank you to everyone that signed up last year.

Contribution Envelopes for 2021

Will be placed in the Narthex on Monday December 21. We understand that all of us cannot make regular church services, so envelopes not picked up in the next few weeks will be held in the church office spaces until you can pick them up.

Contribution Statements for 2020 will be prepared and placed in the Narthex by mid-January, earlier if possible. If you cannot pick yours up by the end of the month, it will be mailed to you. Any questions contact Don Adamick or Lisa Little.

Thank You!

A thank you to all who helped get the Chrismon Trees up and decorated. Kerstin Walker and Sonia Davidson put them up. Steve Anderson, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach, Sandra Linder, Mary Rochester, Kay Bowman, and Clare Adamick did the decorating. Steve also put up the wreaths on the front of the church.



Advent and Christmas Services

Wednesday Advent Services have been cancelled for this year.

**Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24, 2020
6:30pm and 8:00pm**

**Christmas Day – Friday, December 25, 2020
10:00am with Holy Communion**

There will be no New Years' service this year.



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at currently 10:00 am (Traditional) and 11:15am (The Well, Contemporary)

Please check our website for any changes to these services

A Great Place to Grow in Christ

*As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a
Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 5th grade.*

All programs/grades have full-time care available.

Pastor Thomas Clocker, 301-732-9203, revclocker@gmail.com

Nathan Kottowski, Principal

Sonia Davidson, Director of Preschool

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship

Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship

Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.