



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651

www.stjohnsws.com

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

"Be Still and know that I am God." We greatly enjoy our Sunday morning times to catch-up with each other in fellowship and conversation, both before and after worship. The worship service begins with the playing of the Prelude. Once the prelude begins, please be seated, stop conversing, and prepare your heart for worship. Thank you. Please silence all devices. If at any point you need to or prefer to sit, please feel free to do so.

Prelude: "Reverie Opus 39, No. 21"

Tschaikovsky

Arina Komarova, viola

Welcome

Announcements

(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn: # 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

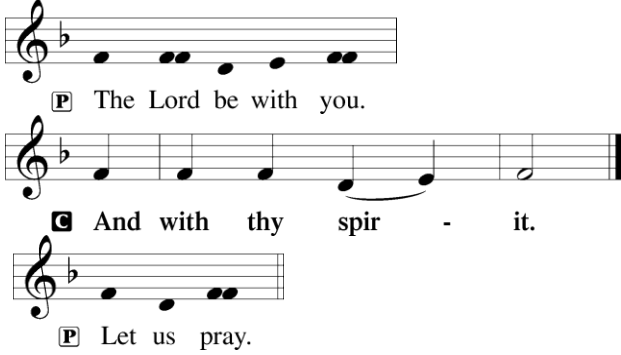
C: Amen.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

(Please Be Seated)

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

Alleluia



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be ^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

Children's Message

(Pew Pad Distribution)

Sermon Hymn: #933 "My Soul Rejoices"

(Pew Pad Collection)

Sermon

(Please Stand)

Offertory



□ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

(Please Be Seated)

Offering and Offertory Anthem: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

set by Jean Anne Shafferman

(Please Stand)

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

St. Paul wrote, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup". Ask yourself: Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Am I resolved, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to use the power of Christ which is offered in this Sacrament, to amend my sinful life? St. Paul also wrote, "He who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly". Do you believe that you receive the TRUE/REAL BODY AND BLOOD of Christ in, under and with the bread and wine for the full pardon of sins? (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.) Children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

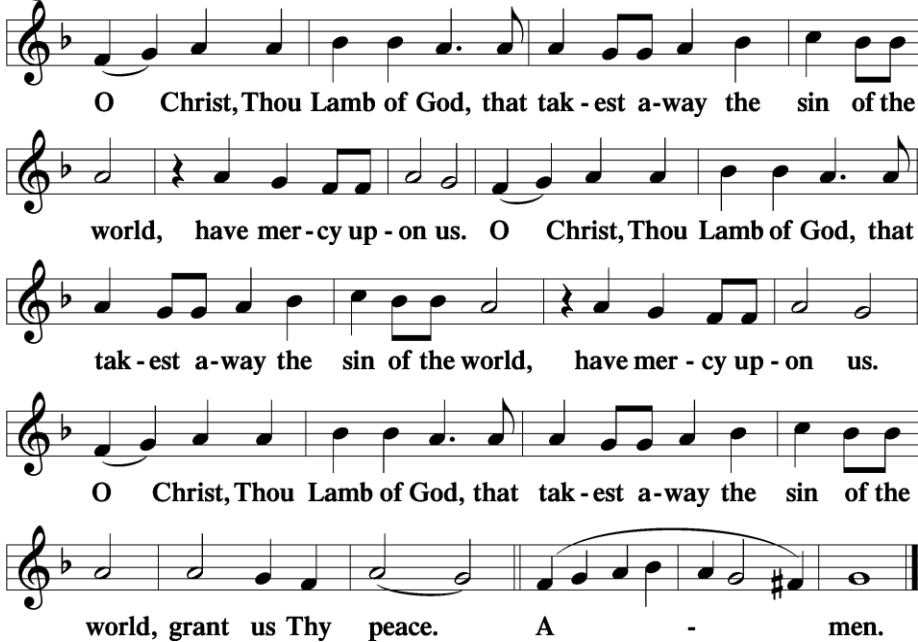
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Peace of Our Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Please Be Seated)

Distribution of Holy Communion by Continuous Line

(Gluten Free wafers available upon request)


Distribution Hymns: #342 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"
#346 "When All the World Was Cursed"
#355 "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

(Please Stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

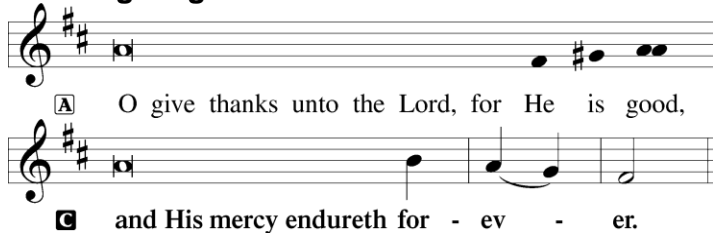
C: Amen.

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus



A Bless we the Lord.



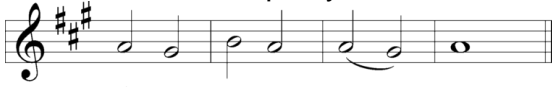
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

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



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: “361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Postlude: “Noel”

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God, by Cyndie & Rod Anderson in honor of Mia Michel’s 4th birthday.

Worship Assistants: 8:30am – Bob Burke, Rich Essbach; **10:30am** –Don Henderson, Steve Anderson

Lector: 8:30am – Claudia Essbach; **10:30am** – Cheryl Wulfert

Altar Guild for December: Sue & Ted Frake, Claudia Essbach, Renee Henderson

Crisis Control Item for December: Hot Beverages (Tea, Hot Cocoa, Instant Coffee) – 152 lbs. was collected for the month of December – that’s a record! Thank you for your donations!

December Christmas Services:

December 24, 2024 – 5:00pm - Traditional – prelude music begins a 4:45

December 24, 2024 – 7:00pm - Praise

December 25, 2024 – 10:30am – Traditional with communion



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible and Sunday School Class begins at 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Tyson Labuhn
Tiffany Banks, Principal
Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship