



# *First Sunday in Advent*

December 1, 2019 | 8:30 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

# Welcome to St. John's!

*We're so glad that God has brought us together in this place.*

*For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal.*



## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Georg F. Kauffmann

**Welcome** *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

**Prayers of Confession.** *Please stand.*

*As we gather for worship, we make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

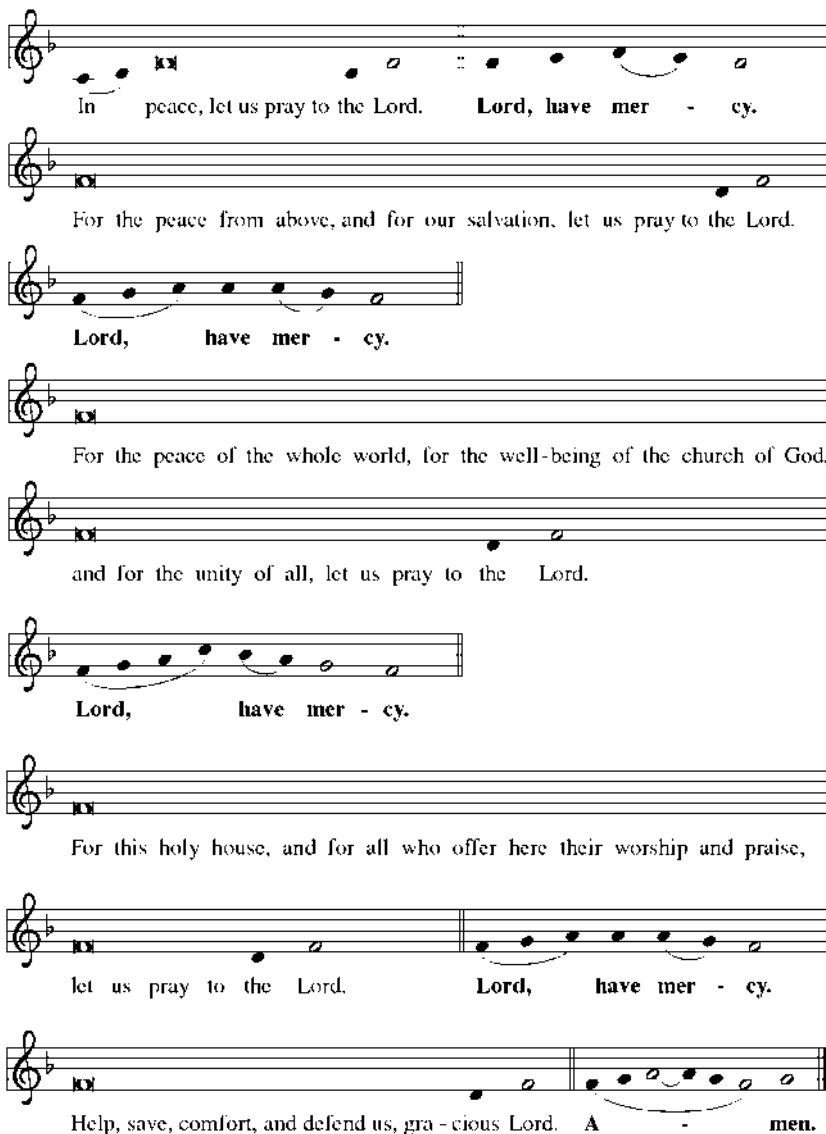
**God's Promise of Forgiveness**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God: you are forgiven of all your sins, in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie.** *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*



## Word

*We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*The coming messenger*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

### Second Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David  
and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**



*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

**Response Hymn 292**

*Love Has Come*

UN FLAMBEAU

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 24:36-44

*The day and the hour*

<sup>36</sup>But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

*Please stand*

**Hymn 242**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

*Please be seated*

## Apostle's Creed

Gathered as the people of God across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

**Anthem**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

arr. Hal. H. Hopson

**Offertory Hymn** *As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession** *Each petition ends: "Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**"*

## The 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.**



## **Sending**

*Forgiven and nourished, we are sent into the world to share God's love.*

### **Benediction**

### **Hymn 239**

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

CHESTERFIELD

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Postlude**

*Sleepers Awaker*

Felix Mendelssohn

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***The Advent Wreath.*** One of the most recognizable customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life. Its circular shape, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's unending love for us. The wreath itself is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, even during the dormant time of winter. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, despite the wintry darkness that surrounds us.

Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*