

***The Biblical Practice of Close Communion***

Through the apostle Paul, God speaks of his desire for all of us to reach perfect unity (Ephesians 4:12, 13). We members of St. John Congregation certainly share his desire. We seek to express that unity – with our current members, with those who desire membership, and also with Christians around the world.

Scripture speaks of two different types of unity. First, Christ has reconciled every single one of us to God through his perfect life and death on our behalf. Even now, God considers us saints and heirs of heaven, clothed with Christ’s righteousness. You might think of this as a “vertical” unity – purely between the individual and his or her God. Through Christ, peace with God has been restored. Then, there’s also an outward and public unity – a “horizontal” unity – as fellow saints worship side-by-side. The celebration of Holy Communion is guided by both types.

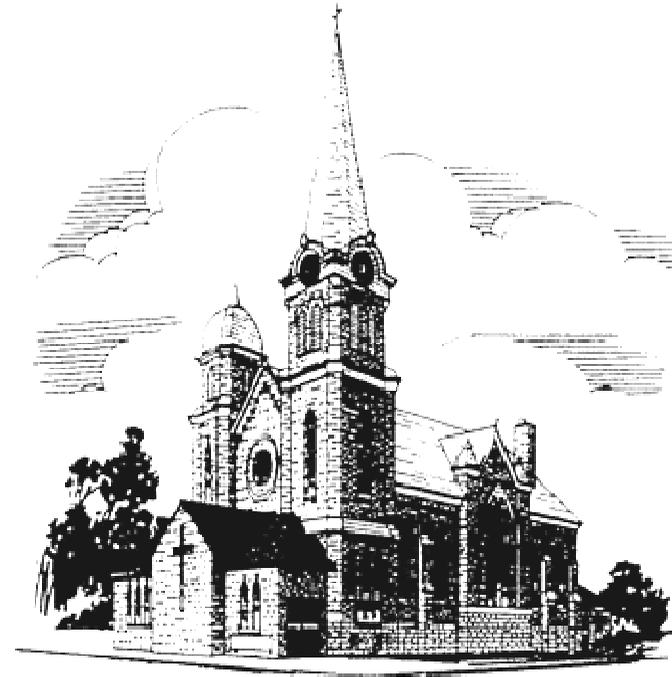
**For communion to be celebrated in a beneficial way, those attending will come united with their God and also with their fellow-communicants. The former is established by repentance – a sorrow over sin and a trust in God’s forgiveness – that he himself produces. It’s a matter of the heart. The latter is established by the outward confession of what each of us believes. It’s a matter of the mouth.**

We do not presume to look into the heart, for only God is able to do that. We do, however, seek to establish outward unity by studying God’s Word together so that we share a common confession. Our congregation offers a Bible study course that’s designed for just that purpose.

**And so, out of love for God and his Word, we kindly ask that all visitors speak with the pastor about how we can establish that outward unity prior to your attending Holy Communion here at St. John. We desire to make that goal a priority, so that you may receive the Sacrament as soon as possible.**

May God bless your hearing of the Word today as he reminds you of his full and free forgiveness in Christ!

**First Sunday in Advent  
December 3, 2017**



**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School**

*437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180*  
[www.stjlw.com](http://www.stjlw.com)

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- Church Office ([church@stjlw.com](mailto:church@stjlw.com)) ..... (920) 532-4865
- School Office ([stjls@stjlw.com](mailto:stjls@stjlw.com)) ..... (920) 532-4361
- Mr. Timothy Raddatz, Principal, Grades 4-8 ..... (920) 636-5007
- Mrs. Jennifer Bunn, Grades 1-3 ..... (920) 217-3405
- Mrs. Rebecca Wicks, Pre-K and K..... (920) 809-8648
- Miss. Jamie Buss, Preschool and Pre-K ..... (920) 538-0470
- Mr. Terry Sieker, Congregation President ..... (920) 864-7307
- Fox Valley Lutheran High School ..... (920) 739-4441

## Welcome!

We extend a very warm and friendly welcome to all who've joined us for worship today. We pray that the God of grace, who sent his Son to save you and who proved his love for you by raising him from the dead, will fill your heart with joy in knowing that your salvation has been made sure through Jesus. May God bless your worship!

If you're a guest with us this morning, please sign the Friendship Register in your row, checking any applicable boxes. If you need assistance of any kind, don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers. If you'd like to learn more about St. John congregation or the Bible's teachings, please speak with Pastor Mike Gehl. And if you don't already have a church-home, feel free to return and worship with us again at your earliest convenience.

Our restrooms are located downstairs (through the entryway). Activity bags to help keep children occupied are on a hanger in the entryway. We love having your children sit with you during the service, but if you feel that your infant or toddler is getting a little too fussy, you may briefly step out of the sanctuary until they're ready to come back in.

Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

St. John also operates an all-day preschool and a full-day kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School. We're a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School federation. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities for Christian education, please speak with Pastor Gehl or Principal Tim Raddatz.

### At Your Service Today:

#### 7:45

**Greeters:** Jean Brandt  
Marna Johns  
Lynn Zirbel

#### 10:15

Karen Geiger  
Judy Wicker  
Courtney Schisel  
Heather Schisel

**Ushers:** Gary Brandt  
Jack Zirbel  
Loree Baumgartener  
Terry Schaeuble

Mike Geiger  
Roy Schisel  
Perry Schisel  
Reece Schisel  
Troy Schisel

**PowerPoint:** Amy Vande Hey  
Rebecca Wicks

**Altar Guild:** Pat V, Betty S, & Tina D

### Mission and Purpose

St. John Lutheran Church exists as part of the Holy Christian Church on earth. We engage in the continuing development of disciples of Jesus Christ by **GATHERING** for worship, education, and fellowship in order to **GROW** in faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. By God's **GRACE** we **GO** to proclaim Christ and his Word with our lips and lives. We realize that it's only through the **GOSPEL** in Word and Sacraments that one can be equipped for discipleship and bringing **GLORY** to God.



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of / In Memorial to / In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Lou Ann Gutzman. Each Poinsettia will be \$10.00. Deadline for ordering is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Place this form with payment on the church secretary's desk in the office. Thank you.

## News & Notes

### Thanks!

...to all those members who so faithfully take care of things behind the scenes – cleaning, setting things up, taking things down, organizing, etc. Although you don't ask for or expect recognition, we just want you to know that your service is very much appreciated.

### Desserts Needed

The Events Committee is hosting our midweek Advent meal on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. The main course and side dishes will be provided, but members are kindly asked to bring a dessert to share.

### Holiday Service Updates

Carefully note the schedule on the bottom of the previous page. Some changes have been made from prior years, as follows...

A single **midweek Advent** service will be offered this year on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> **plus** a **PS/PK Christmas** service on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

On **Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**, the 7:45 service will be a regular one w/ Holy Communion and the 10:15 service will be the **LES/SS Christmas** service.

Since the holidays of **Christmas Eve** and **NY Eve** both happen to fall on Sundays this year, we're having a single (9:00 am) service those mornings and special festival services later in the day.

There will be a **Christmas Day** service, but there will be **no** service on **NY Day**.

### SCRIP

Because of limited stock, members intending to purchase SCRIP for holiday gifts are kindly asked to pre-order their cards **by today or Wednesday**. Drop off your order sheet at either church or school along with your payment. The cards will arrive within a couple days for pick-up.

### Offering Envelopes

Please pick up the boxes for your family from the entryway table. Some changes to the envelopes were made for 2018, so please read through the included note that's stuffed into each box.

### Memorial Gift Received

We express our gratitude to the family of Glenn and Ann Immel for their generous memorial gift to St. John Congregation! Praise be to God for these resources to be able to carry out future gospel ministry!

### Memorabilia Wanted

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is looking for any St. John church / school memorabilia or printed historical documents that you may have. Please label items so they can be returned to you and get them to Lois Baumgartener.

### Adult Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Phil and Erica Roberts have graciously offered to host us this year at their home in Wrightstown. Mark the evening of Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendars and make plans to attend.

Bring: 1) yourself and all your Christmas cheer; 2) a hot or cold hors d'oeuvre and/or dessert for a potluck-style supper (e.g. BBQ meatballs; shrimp cocktail; pigs in a blanket; cheese, crackers, sausage; chips and dip; cookies; bars; etc.); 3) any adult beverages you wish to have (bottled water will be provided); 3) a wrapped Christmas ornament (\$5-\$10 range) for the exchange. Couples may bring a single ornament or two of them – depending on how many they wish to take back home with them.

Last year's inaugural event was a blast! Let's build on the fun and fellowship this year, as we share the true reason for Christmas!

## Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism

*In the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,  
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your  
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to  
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

*I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.*

**Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

*(In 3:5,6)*

*Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.*

*(Ps 51:5)*

**But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

*(1 Cor 6:11)*

My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -  
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of  
forth your child and heir.  
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort  
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise  
 Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and  
 sure - ly will en - dure.  
 deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -  
 filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✚] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism (10:15).....Gavin Michael Hein**

**Last Week's Stewardship of the Means of Grace  
 and the Means for His Work**

Worship: 132

ABC: 22

	<u>Nov 26</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$7,706.33	\$146,038.95	\$183,986.44

**The Week+ Ahead as We Live in God's Grace**

<b>Today (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	8a-1p	Silent Auction (church fellowship hall)
	7:45 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	9:00 am	Sunday School <b>AT THE SCHOOL</b> (Crossing the Jordan) Adult Bible Class (Faith – All Serve Christ: Vocation)
<b>Tue (5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	10:15 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	8:30 am	Pastors Circuit Meeting
	9:00 am	Martha's Circle
<b>Wed (6<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (The Augsburg Confession)
	8:15 am	St. John Chapel (at church)
<b>Thu (7<sup>th</sup>)</b>	3:30 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Class
	6:30 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sat (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	7:00 pm	Handbells Practice (at Trinity, Kaukauna)
	9:00 am	Christmas Card Distribution
	9:00 am	LES & SS Christmas Service Practice
<b>Sun (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	5:00 pm	Adult Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange (at Roberts')
	7:45 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Sunday School (The Fall of Jericho) Adult Bible Class (Scripture – One Authority: Scripture Alone)
<b>Mon (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>	10:15 am	Worship
	5:30 pm	Freshman Registration Night (at FVLHS)
	4:00 pm	FVL Choirs Christmas Concert (at FVLHS)
<b>Thu (Dec 14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	10:15 am	St. John LES / SS Christmas Service
	4:00 pm	FVL Choirs Christmas Concert (at FVLHS)
	6:30 pm	St. John PS/PK/K Christmas Service
<b>Sun (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Single A.M. Service (different from the P.M. services)
	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
<b>Sun (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service
	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service

## Thanksgiving

### Song of Simeon ..... (Nunc Dimittis)



In peace, Lord, you let your  
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my  
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for  
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the  
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

### Closing Prayer and Blessing

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.*

**And his mercy endures forever.**

*O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [†] give you peace.*

**Amen.**

### Closing Hymn ..... "The Advent of Our King" (CW 1)



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it  
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me  
all, O Lord, from me.  
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or  
own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

### Prayer of the Day

*Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## The Word

### First Lesson ..... Genesis 6:1-3,5-14,17-22 (EHV)

*The corruption of the world was so great that the very existence of the church was threatened. But God promised Noah that he would come and save, that he would come and destroy. For 120 years he promised thus to come; and Noah preached for 120 years. His preaching showed how patient and loving God is, that for so long a time he held out the means of rescue from the judgment that would fall on those who were not prepared. He did everything he could to make his coming for those who heard Noah a coming in grace and not in judgment. Then he kept his Word. He came. In his coming he saved the church by water. In his coming he judged the world by that same water.*

<sup>1</sup>This is what happened when mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth. When daughters were born to people, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives for themselves any of them they chose. <sup>3</sup>The LORD said, "My Spirit will not struggle with man forever, because he is only flesh. His days will be 120 years." <sup>4</sup>The LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day. <sup>5</sup>The LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with sorrow. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said, "I will wipe out mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, along with the animals, the creeping things, and the birds of the sky, because I regret that I have made them." <sup>7</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>8</sup>This is the account about the development of Noah's family. Noah was a righteous man, a man of integrity in that generation. Noah walked with God. <sup>9</sup>Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>10</sup>In the sight of God the earth was morally corrupt, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>11</sup>God looked at

the earth and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh was corrupt in all their ways on the earth. <sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, "I have decreed the end of all flesh, because the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. <sup>14</sup>Make an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark. Seal it inside and outside with pitch. <sup>17</sup>I myself am about to bring a flood of waters on the earth, in order to destroy all flesh under the sky that has the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will die, <sup>18</sup>but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup>You shall bring a pair (male and female) of every kind of living flesh into the ark with you to keep them alive. <sup>20</sup>Include the birds according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, every creeping thing on the ground according to their kinds. Two of every sort shall come to you, so you can keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Take with you every type of food that is eaten, and store it for yourself, so it can be used as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup>So that is what Noah did. He did everything that God commanded him, just as he had been told.

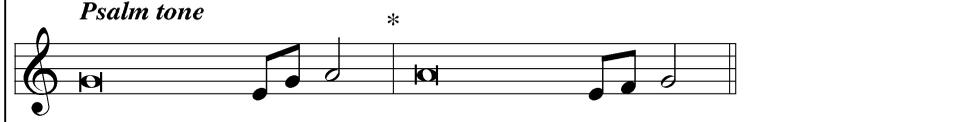
**Psalm of the Day .....Psalm 24**

*Refrain*



Let the Lord en - ter; he is the King of glo - ry.

*Psalm tone*



The earth is the LORD's, and every- • thing in it,\*  
 the world, and all who • live in it;  
 for he founded it up- • on the seas\*  
 and established it upon the • waters.  
 Who may ascend the hill • of the LORD?\*  
 Who may stand in his • holy place?  
 He who has clean hands and a • pure heart,\*  
 he will receive blessing from God his • Savior.

**Refrain**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you • ancient doors,\*  
 that the King of glory • may come in.  
 Who is this King of • glory?\*  
 The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in • battle.  
 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you • ancient doors,\*  
 that the King of glory • may come in.

**Words of Institution**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body [†], which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant [†], which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God.....(Agnus Dei)**



O Christ, Lamb of  
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of  
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of  
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

**Distribution**

# The Sacrament

## Preface

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

**It is good and right so to do.**

*It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:*

## Holy, Holy, Holy..... (Sanctus)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
 God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -  
 ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -  
 ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Who is he, this King of • glory?\*

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of • glory.

**Glory be to the Father and • to the Son \* and to the Holy • Spirit,  
as it was in the be- • ginning, \* is now, and will be forever. • Amen.**

## Refrain

## Second Lesson ..... 1 Peter 3:18-22 (EHV)

*The corruption has not changed and therefore we can be sure that God will still keep his Word; he will come and save; he will come and destroy. But just as he provided an escape from judgment in the preaching of Noah and then in the water that floated the ark, so he has provided an escape from judgment that again will most certainly come. The escape from judgment he himself provides by coming in grace. He washes us from the corruption that merits his judgment in the washing of water by the Word. God himself gets us ready for his coming. He has kept his promise and keeps it still, to grant us salvation before his coming judgment.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup>And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## Verse of the Day ..... Revelation 22:20 (EHV)

*Alleluia. The one who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Alleluia.*

## Gospel Lesson ..... Mark 13:32-37 (EHV)

*Those who are busy doing their own thing, serving self, looking only for the cute and entertaining things that have become such a part of the world's Christmas culture, will not be ready for either his coming in grace or his coming in judgment. Make no mistake about it: He comes! He comes in grace! He comes in judgment! How then should we prepare for both comings? We do well to turn our eyes away from the glitter and the clutter of the world and focus them instead first on our need for his coming and then on his sure and certain promise to fulfill that need when he comes. We eagerly prepare by repentant watching.*

*Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark, beginning at the 32<sup>nd</sup> verse.*

Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>32</sup>“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day.....“Savior of the Nations, Come” (CW 2)

Sermon ..... Mark 13:32-37

Your Savior Has Made You a Watchman in His House.

Be faithful in his absence.

Be alert for his return.

### Create in Me

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me.  
 Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or  
 take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### Thank-Offering

*These offerings are used to support the ministries of our church, both locally and worldwide.  
 Our guests should not feel compelled to give an offering, but may do so if they desire.*

### Prayer of the Church

#### The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.