OPENING HYMN - # 71

OPENING SERVICE
P: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.
C: Your mercies are new every morning.
P: Guide our steps by the light of your Word.
C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.
P: Better than life is your love.
C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Amen.

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FIRST LESSON - Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil--this is the gift of God.

GOSPEL LESSON - Matthew 6:25-34
"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these
things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

SERMON TEXT – Jude 20-25
But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.
**Hearing God's Word**

Trinity (Christmas Day): 29  St. John’s: 52  Christmas Eve: 29  Christmas Eve: 82

**Offerings to Our Lord**

Trinity: $419.25  St. John’s: $1,605.00  Christmas Eve: $3,006.00  Christmas Eve: $1,396.50

**This Week at a Glance:**

**Sunday:** 8:30 AM - Worship with Holy Communion - Trinity  10:00 AM - Worship with Holy Communion - St. John

**Wednesday:** 9:30 AM - Janesville Nursing Home Service  6:15 PM - Catechism Class - Trinity

**Next Sunday:** 8:30 AM - Worship Service - Trinity  9:00 AM - Sunday School Classes - St. John  9:30 AM - Sunday School Classes - Trinity  10:00 AM - Worship Service - St. John  11:00 AM - Bible Study - St. John

**Announcements:**

Holy Communion will be offered in our services today. We practice Open Communion. Visitors from our sister congregations in the WELS and ELS are welcome to commune with us. If you are a visitor and wish to commune, please speak to the Pastor before the service.

We thank Pastor Del Begalka for preaching today and for being on-call while Pastor Bilitz is on vacation until Tuesday. If you need pastoral assistance before then, please call Pastor Begalka at 507 344 0361.

Catechism classes will resume this Wednesday at 6:15 pm.

Sunday School classes and morning Bible Studies will resume next week.

January calendars and new *Forward in Christ* magazines are available.

The MN Dept. of Health has found coliform bacteria in St. John’s water again. The immunocompromised, pregnant women, elderly, and children may be at increased risk from drinking it. Hopefully it was treated this week and will be tested again. There are sheets in entryway and bathrooms with information.

Your 2017 offering envelopes are available in the entryway at Trinity and in the basement at St. John.

*Have a safe and blessed New Year!*