OPENING HYMN

OPENING HYMN # 72

OPENING SERVICE
P: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.
C: The light no darkness can overcome.
P: Stay with us, for it is evening.
C: And the day is almost over.
P: Let your light scatter the darkness.
C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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. (NIV 84)

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 90 (page 99)

GOSPEL LESSON – Matthew 6:25-34
25 For this reason 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 than food and the body more than clothing?
26 Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
27 Which of you can add a single moment to his lifespan by worrying?
28 Why do you worry about clothing? Consider how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin, but I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will he not clothe you even more, you of little faith?
31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the unbelievers chase after all these things. Certainly your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (EHV 17)

HYMN # 71

SERMON - Psalm 31:10,14-16
MY TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND, O LORD
10 Yes, my life is consumed by grief, and my years by groaning. My strength fails because of my guilt, and my bones grow weak.
14 But I—I trust in you, O Lord. I say, “You are my God.”
15 My times are in your hand. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your mercy.

OFFERING

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER
COMMUNION SERVICE
- Confession of Sins - Page 26
- Words of Institution & Distribution - Page 35 ff
- Distribution Hymn #441 (#71 if needed)

CLOSING HYMN #69 vv 1-3

Organist: David Bilitz

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

Holy Communion will also be offered at our regular Sunday morning services: Trinity - 8:30 and St. John’s – 10:00.

January calendars and new Forward in Christ magazines are available.

We wish all of you a most blessed New Year!

NEW YEAR'S EVE - 2018

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
Alma City, MN
Phone: 234-5353

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Smiths Mill, MN
Phone: 234-5547

Members of WELS

Pastor Keith J. Bilitz Phone: 382-8625
Internet: www.stjohn-trinity.org
https://www.facebook.com/stjandtr
email: stjandtr@hotmail.com