

First Sunday in Advent

November 30 - December 1, 2024



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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Lord Jesus, our souls wait in eager anticipation for your return to bring us to glory everlasting. Help us in this Advent season to prepare our hearts to celebrate also your first coming at Christmas. Bless our prayers and praise today. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he would be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday show us the pattern of our Savior's work, proving the Son of God was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. And a real Christmas requires remembering why Christ came.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** When parents say, "I want to give my kids a real Christmas," they too often are thinking about trees and presents and spending time with extended family. "Then it will be a *real* Christmas!" Certainly, all those are wonderful blessings. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real. The sad truth is while Christmas is a dearly loved holiday by many, too few know the dear love that Christmas is *really* about.

The season of Advent helps prepare us for the *real* Christmas. Advent is Latin for "coming." In this season, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time he will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas focused on God's real love.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Piano: Madison Boerner

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS & ADVENT CANDLE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death. *Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

ALL:

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption." *Galatians 4:4,5*

C: **We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.**

*Psalm 130:5,7*

ALL:

O, come, our Hope, who has de-clared "Sal - va - tion's won; do not de-spair." Help us be-lieve that once for all You bore God's wrath, re - deem - ing all. Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

ALL:

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## THE WORD OF GOD

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*The nation of Israel lived in hope that, one day, a descendant of King David would provide perfect justice, safety, and righteousness. God fulfilled this promise when he sent Jesus, not to be the King of Israel, but to be the Savior of the world.*

<sup>14</sup>“ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

<sup>15</sup>“ ‘In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.

<sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:  
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Christ came the first time so that by his saving work we might be found blameless and holy when he comes again.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup>May he strength-

en your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **Gospel**

Luke 19:28-40

*Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing he would soon be put to death. This is why Christ came.*

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup>“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

<sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

<sup>34</sup>They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

<sup>35</sup>They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

<sup>36</sup>As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup>When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup>“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

<sup>40</sup>“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

**M:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## **Children’s Devotion**



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the  
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the  
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -  
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 Spir - it of our God was the Word of  
 vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the  
 cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing  
 God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
 death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!  
 Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

**Sermon**

Based on 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*“The Joy of Advent”*

- 1) God’s people are coming to him
- 2) Because God comes to his people first

Please stand after the sermon.



# THANKSGIVING

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*Be seated.*

## Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

*Please stand.*

## Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**



M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **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.**

*Be seated.*

## Hymn: Behold, a Branch is Growing

CW 360



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

### Prayer

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### Blessing

M: 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.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### WELS Connection Video

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. We will be having a presentation from Christian Life Ministries at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Real Christmas is Rooted in Repentance

Bible Readings: Malachi 3:1-7, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Hymns: 308, 316, 310

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *For our guests*

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## *For those with young children*

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

