

December 7-8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

Second Sunday in Advent

A Real Christmas is Rooted in Repentance

Welcome! 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: Father in heaven, the world around us is filled with the stress of a commercial, external "Christmas." Lead us instead to look for Christ at the heart of the season. Fill us with peace in your grace that cannot be taken away. Give us attention and hear our prayers in worship today.

THEME OF THE DAY: The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief to hear what is required to be ready for the real Christmas: only repentance. Repentance is the opposite of work. It is the honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us to God has already been done by Christ. At this busy time of year, God's call to repent is not a demand to do something more. It is an invitation to set down our work and know peace in Christ's work. In repentant rest, we enjoy a real Christmas.

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 Organ/Piano: Luke Dorn

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

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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 into the world. 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 Peace, who auth - ors faith, Per-féct our trust in
you by grace. As-sure us by your gen - tle Word
That in true faith we all en-dure. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the peace 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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.

¹"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

⁶"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Sunday) Men's Chorus Anthem

Prophets Knew
J. Paul Williams

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!

Prophets knew long ago that Christ would come to earth.
Led by Isaiah they foretold. God in human frame, Emmanuel his name.
Prophets knew long ago, long ago.

Prophets knew long ago this child would be the King!
"Glory to God!" Let heav'n and nature sing.
God in human frame, Messiah was his name. Prophets knew long ago.

Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Royal David's town:
Redeemer of Israel, promised to all, a king without a crown!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophets knew that in a manger stall
angels and shepherds would find the Lord of all!
God in human frame, Jesus was his name. Prophets knew long ago.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Sunday) Choral Anthem

A Light Will Shine!

Lloyd Larson

The people who walk in the darkness, they will see a great light!
The people who walk in the darkness, on them a light will shine!
Those who live in the shadow of death will be filled with joy!
And unto them will a child be born, heaven's gift: a baby Boy.

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolations, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

The people who walk in the darkness, they will see a great light!
The people who walk in the darkness, on them a light will shine!

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God's salvation.' ”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry CW 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Sermon

Based on Luke 3:1-6

“Prepare the way for Jesus: Find peace in his call”

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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 truly 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.

Be seated.

Offering



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.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

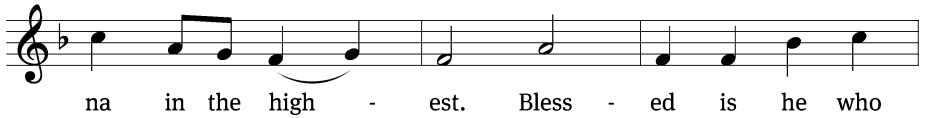
Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: 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, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Words of Institution

M: 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. The lyrics are: 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.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Hymn: Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord

CW 661



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.
has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood,
He gave his life for great - est and for least,
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends,
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow,



with souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.
him - self the of - f'ring and him - self the priest.
gives all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
in this great feast of love be with us now.

Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 308



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like the flow'rs of the field they per - ish; like
He shall feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Please stand at the pastor's direction after the distribution.

Prayer

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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: Arise, O Christian People

CW 310 sts. 3-4

3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -

high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
side, and help me to re - ceive you this

haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger

right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your

prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Camp Croix Presentation—TJ Holderbecker

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. Our new adult Bible Study begins at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

Bible Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-17, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Hymns: 324, 524



CHRISTMAS
for Kids

SATURDAY, DEC 14
9:00 - 12:30 pm
Learn more and register:



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve by Candlelight - 4 & 6 pm

Christmas Day Festival - 10 am

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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.**

