

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14-15, 2024



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

Third Sunday in Advent

A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

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: Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace and mercy in another week. Fill our hearts with joy as we prepare to celebrate your birth. Without the humility of your first arrival, your second would not bring us joy. Bless our prayers and praise today. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The holiday season can be painful and overwhelming for some. Pressure and loss can feel magnified. A real Christmas, though, is one that results in great joy. Joy, however, is not the same as happiness. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Worldly "Christmas cheer" is fleeting, but real Christmas joy endures.

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 Jon Enter Organ/Piano: Robyn Stoller
Flute: Rachel Collins

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

church@salemlutheran.org

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 joy candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

C: **And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.**

Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1,:8,9

ALL:

O, come, our Joy, whose love for-gives— Whose death as-sures that
we will live! Move us to heed the call, "Re-pent!"
And trust, for your sake, God re-lents. Re-joice! Re-joice!
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-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Sunday) Handbell Anthem

Prepare the Royal Highway
Cathy Moklebust

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30) Praise Group Anthem

What Can Compare?

David Lantz III

What can compare to the sky that night, when the angels sang their song?
Shepherds bending low, so very long ago. Can you hear them sing along?
What can compare to the royal gifts, carefully laid before a child?
Hearts filled with praise, their humble song they raise.
He is gentle, meek and mild. Jesus, born a baby, many, many years ago.
Living now among us, God's great love to show.
Nothing can compare to a night like this, as we knee before the King.
He is God's Son, the vic'try has been won! We will worship Him and sing!
Precious Jesus, born a baby, many, many years ago.
Living now among us, God's great love to show.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

Christmas joy comes in knowing the greatness of the work our Savior king was coming to do for us.

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?" ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

“What kind of king were you expecting?”

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

(Sunday) Handbell Offertory

Come, Thou Almighty King
By R. Mallory

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

C: Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

M: Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

C: Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

M: Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

C: Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

M: As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

C: Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

M: Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

C: Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

M: Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

C: May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

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

Silent prayer

M: Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

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.

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: Rejoice, the Lord Is King

CW 524



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
2 The Lord, our Sav - ior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come



Re - joice, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home:



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a-gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a-gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a-gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a-gain I say, re - joice!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Office Presentation—Abigail Ibsch

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services.
Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary.
Adult Bible Study begins at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly
Bible Readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55
Hymns: 328, 674, 315

Leave us a review to help us to show up in search engines!



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.**

