

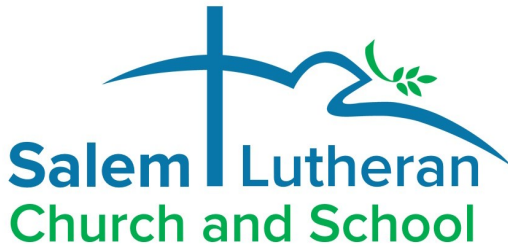
December 31, 2024

New Year's Eve



When evening
comes, there
will be light.

ZECHARIAH 14:7, NIV



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New Year's Eve

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past,
Our Hope for Years to come*

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, God, as we come to your house tonight confessing our sins one more time this year, assure us again of your gracious mercy and forgiveness. Open our hearts and lips to praise you for your goodness for the new year ahead as you are with us every day. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe
Piano: Madison Boerner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Reading Plans

Did you know that you can read the whole Bible in one year with just 10 minutes of reading time a day? This year's Bible plan is Pastor Wolfe's favorite, shared with the church two years ago. Each day we read a bit of the Old Testament, a bit of the New, and a selection from the Psalms. It's a perfect way to break up some of those longer Old Testament books! Pick up your copy in the church entry.

Bible Basics New Session

Pastor Wolfe will offer the next session of Bible Basics beginning the week of January 20th. (Mondays or Thursdays by participants' choice) In this 10 to 12-week study we'll cover the most important teachings of the Bible, as well as look for God's answers to questions participants bring themselves. Bible Basics is a great refresher for members of all ages and a perfect introduction to what we believe for your family and friends. This study also serves as Salem's membership intro class. If you would like to attend or want to invite someone you know to attend please contact Pastor Wolfe (rwolfe@salemlutheran.org).

Order of Worship



Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820 sts. 1-4



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Please stand.

Prayer

Minister: Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives, you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in anticipation of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

New Year's Eve Confession

M: In the name of our God, to whom, on this New Year's Eve, all hearts are open and from whom no secrets of the past, present or future are hidden. Amen.

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

In silence we confess in our hearts specific sins of the past year.

M: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

New Year's Eve Absolution

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured, as you end the old year and begin a new one, that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C: **O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. In this new year of grace that begins tomorrow help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.**

M: Go in peace. The Lord be with you.

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Though the world will fall into nothingness, God's salvation and his righteousness will endure forever.

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut

and to the quarry from which you were hewn;

²look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.

³The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins;

he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

⁴"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations.

⁵My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way,

and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath;

the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment

and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: All Depends on Our Possessing

CW 807 sts. 1-2



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.

Second Reading

James 4:13-17

Our time in this world vanishes like a vapor in the wind. Therefore we focus on God's eternal will.

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

CW 563 sts. 1, 3



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus'
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

As another year passes, we remember that the Christian seeks treasures in heaven, not treasures on earth.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn: What Is the World to Me

CW 717



1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

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: Almighty and everlasting God, our maker and preserver, we give you humble and hearty thanks for the manifold blessings that You have so graciously bestowed upon us during this past calendar year. Even in the midst of hardships and troubles, your guiding hand and fatherly providence have sustained us. Enlighten our hearts by your Holy Spirit that we may forever give you thanks for your grace and be strengthened in all times of tribulation and temptation. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: Eternal Father, help us to order our days and our deeds in your peace. Give us wisdom as we manage your gift of time so that we do not squander or use it selfishly but rather live our days as your baptized children, helping our neighbor and proclaiming your unchanging good news. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: O God, the ruler of time, as we face the new calendar year, be our guiding strength in times of certainty and in times of uncertainty. Keep us ever mindful that tribulation, distress, persecution, even death and life can never separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: Returning Master, by Your Word and Spirit, keep us dressed for action as we await your final judgment on the Last Day. Grant that we may live lives of faith in Your Holy Word, always ready for your imminent return. Enable us to resist all evil and to live godly lives by following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: Heavenly Father, look in love upon those who mourn the loss of loved ones who now brightly shine in endless day, free from sin and all despairing. Give all who mourn the courage to walk by faith until that day when all who belong to you will be reunited around the throne of the Lamb, who lives forever. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: Lord God, the strength of the weak and the consolation of those who suffer, mercifully hear our prayers and grant to all those sick and suffering from any affliction the help of your power. Assure them of your mercy, comfort them with the awareness of your goodness, preserve them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience in their tribulation. If it pleases you, restore them to health or give them grace to accept their afflictions. O God, our help in ages past,

C: Our hope for years to come.

M: O God of grace and glory, in the shedding of his innocent blood at his circumcision, your Son Jesus Christ began his work of fulfilling the law in our place and foreshadowed His shedding of blood for us on the cross. As we approach this altar this evening to receive our Lord's precious blood poured out for us, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. O God, our help in ages past,

C: **Our hope for years to come.**

M: Lord Jesus, lead us onward until our rest is won. And when our last hour comes, support us by your power and receive us into your heavenly kingdom, which has no end; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **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.



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.

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.**

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.

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

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

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: Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367 sts 1,4



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night this New Year's Eve are
4 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, we pray your hand may



fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar, Lord, with light, in sol - emn
guide us, and, on - ward through our jour - ney home, your mer - cy



wor - ship meet - ing; and, as the year's last hours go by, we
walk be - side us un - til at last our ran - somed life is



raise to you our ear - nest cry, once more your love en - treat - ing.
safe from per - il, toil, and strife when heav'n it - self shall hide us.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer (alternate) from Christian Worship
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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 make a donation 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 your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly 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.**

