

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## First Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

## FIRST READING: Romans 15: 4-13

The First Reading is from the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19** (Please read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: Matthew 3: 1-6**

The Second Reading is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Matthew.

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

The Word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1: 57-66, 76-80**

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE CHILDRENS' SERMON**

### **THE SERMON**

#### **HYMN: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers***

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, o heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff' rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended into hell.**  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS**

Response to: "Hear us, O God" . . . . . **your mercy is great.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Due to the current COVID situation in our area, **everyone is asked to wear a mask and observe social distancing**. The Service is also available in the basement via video stream.

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held **NEXT SUNDAY**, December 5<sup>th</sup> to vote on the proposed 2022 Budget and Council Members. Please plan to be present for this important meeting. If you did not receive a copy of the proposed budget last Sunday, copies are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

**Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline** for items for the December newsletter. Please give any articles you'd like included to Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com). Thank you.

Reading today's lessons is Charlie Benner.

**Adult Sunday School** is held **every Sunday** in the church basement. We gather from **9:30 – 10:00 am**. Join us as we open the Scriptures and learn with and from one another!



## THE "STAR TREE" IS HERE!

The Ladies' WELCA Group is supporting local families in need. Please choose a star, take the tag with the child's "Wish List" and purchase a gift. **Please wrap your gift and attach the tag to the outside of the gift.** The deadline to bring all gifts is **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please put all gifts on the table in the basement social room. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for less fortunate children and families.

The **Ladies WELCA Christmas Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the church basement. Please bring your favorite "finger-food" to share. **ALL ladies** of the church are invited to attend. Come share fellowship, friendship and fun with your Salem sisters!

Come share your Christmas Spirit! Help to decorate the church on **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**. No need to buy or bring anything – the decorations are here at the church. The more the merrier!



**Advent Craft Afternoon!** Join us on **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm** in the church basement for a fun afternoon of Advent Crafting! Options will be offered for all different crafting levels. Options include: Memorial Ornaments, Hymnal Angels, Advent Wreaths – traditional and with a modern twist! See Pastor Stina with any questions!

**Christmas Cards 2021** - Salem's tradition of exchanging Christmas cards with our Church Family is back! You are invited to bring your cards to the basement where there will be a bag for each family unit laid out. Deliver your cards and take your bag home on Christmas Eve or the next Sunday. If you are unable to go down the stairs, place your cards in the basket on top of the sound system and they will be delivered for you!

**Mid-Advent Worship – Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00:** Take a moment in this busy season to spend an evening of quiet, reflective time with your Church Family. Join us as together we reflect on the coming of the Christ Child into our world.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm** on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Masks and social distancing will be observed. Additional space will be available in the basement.



Christmas is fast approaching and **Weis Markets Gift Cards** make great gifts! The cards are always available by contacting Debbie & Ricky Bower or Linda Carl and **all proceeds benefit Salem Church!** Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations, they never expire and **can be used at all Weis Markets stores** for groceries, gas and prescriptions. See Debbie, Ricky or Linda today!

**"Festive Christmas Attire Sunday"!** Join us on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for a Service of Lessons, Christmas Carols and festive Christmas attire! **Don your sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, necklaces, reindeer antlers or any other Christmas themed clothing**, as we remember the Story and sing our favorite carols!



**College Care Packages:** Salem has 6 young adults attending college & 1 in the military this year. We want to remind them that their Salem Family is thinking about them & praying for them. Due to the increased high cost of shipping packages, it is most cost-efficient to send them gift cards (*McDonald's, Wendy's, Dunkin'*, etc.) with notes of encouragement throughout the year. **Please drop a monetary donation** in the *Support our College Students* containers on the table at the back of the sanctuary & on top of the sound system. Our college students are: Danielle Alba, Jessica Alba, Maegan Bogetti, Nathan Moyer, Ryan Moyer and Jordyn Nichols & our military personnel is Jake Hane. **PLEASE support our College & Military Students!**

## December Calendar

**Wednesday, Dec. 1** – WELCA Ladies Group Christmas Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 5** – 10:30 am - Congregational Meeting – Vote on proposed 2022 Budget and Council Members

2:00 pm – Advent Craft Afternoon

**Wednesday, Dec. 8** – Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 12** – Deadline to bring ‘Star Tree’ gifts

**Monday, Dec. 13** – Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, Dec. 15** – Advent Worship – 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, Dec. 22** – Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Friday, Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 25** – *Merry Christmas!*

**Sunday, Dec. 26** – Service of Lessons & Carols and “Festive Christmas Attire Sunday” !