

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Third Sunday *of* Advent

Sunday, December 12, 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

FIRST READING: Micah 5: 2-5a

The First Reading is from the 5th chapter of Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

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

PSALM: Psalm 80: 1-7

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10: 5-10

The Second Reading is from the 10th chapter of Hebrews.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-56

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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 sufferings 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.**

CLOSING HYMN: *Joy To The World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Altar flowers are presented today in loving memory of Elaine Kuster by Harry Kuster, Jr. and his Family.

Reading today's lessons is Sue Moyer.

TODAY is the deadline to bring all "Star Tree" gifts to the church. Please put them on the table in the downstairs social room. If you forgot your gift, please speak with Eileen Stauffer or Pastor Stina. **Thank You** to all who participated in making Christmas brighter for less-fortunate children in our area.

Last Sunday's voting results: The proposed 2022 Budget was approved 39 – 2. Council members elected were: Ricky Bower, Art Gill, Neil Klinger, Paula Klingler-Alba, Harry Maurer and Bob Stranko. **Salem's Council for 2022 is:** Harry Aurand, Jr., Joe Bogetti, Ricky Bower, Art Gill, Barry Heim, Neil Klinger, Braden Klingler, Doug Klingler, Paula Klingler-Alba, Judy Kuhn, Harry Maurer, and Bob Stranko.

Council Meeting will be held **tomorrow, December 13 at 7:00 pm.** A *Zoom* link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Mid-Advent Worship – THIS Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm. 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.

Thank You to Pastor Stina for leading the group of “crafters” who gathered in the church basement last Sunday afternoon! Everyone enjoyed the fellowship as they made Advent wreaths - both traditional and modern versions, hymnal angels, and memorial ornaments. Some of the ornaments can be seen on our church Christmas tree. A great time was had by everyone!

Special Thanks to the small, but hard-working group who gathered to decorate the church for Christmas. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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 is a bag labeled for each family unit. Deliver your cards and take your bag home, but **please don't take your bag until after the Christmas Eve or Sunday, Dec. 26th Service.** 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!



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

“Festive Christmas Attire Sunday”! Join us on Sunday, December 26th 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!



Pick-up a few last-minute Christmas gifts! **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!

December Newsletters were sent out the end of last week via email or through the postal service if you do not have email. If you have still not received your newsletter, please notify the Secretary and she will see that you receive one.

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!

Prayer Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:00 pm.

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. We would like to do this **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

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 Candlelight
Worship Service – 7:00 pm



Saturday, Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

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

