

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5, 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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.

## FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

The First Reading is from the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

<sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

## SECOND READING: Matthew 1: 18-25

The Second Reading is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Matthew.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the

Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

### **THIRD READING: Romans 16: 25-27**

The Third Reading is from the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

### **GOSPEL: Luke 1: 26-38**

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.

**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.

**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 **TODAY** to vote on the proposed 2022 Budget and Council Members. Please remain seated for this important meeting. If you did not receive a copy of the proposed budget, copies are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

**Advent Craft Afternoon - TODAY!** Join us **TODAY 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!

**December Newsletters** were sent out via email at the end of this week. If you do not have email, your newsletter was mailed through the postal service. If you do not receive a newsletter by the end of next week, please notify the Secretary and she will see that you receive one.

**This Wednesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline** to submit names to receive a SACC Christmas food basket. Please submit the name, number in the family and names & ages of children to Judy Kuhn (jkuhn@ptd.net) by the deadline.

*I just wanted to say Thank You to everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls and concerns during my surgery and recovery. I finally got it done and each day goes a little better. Thank you again.*

~ Bill Moyer.

**Prayer Meeting** will be held this **Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm.**

Reading today's lessons is Judy Kuhn.

**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 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.

The “**Star Tree**” has a few stars remaining. Stop by, choose by, choose a star and purchase a gift for a local child in need. Won't you help make Christmas a little brighter for a child less fortunate than our own? Please wrap your gift. **The deadline to bring all gifts to the church is next Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Please put all gifts on the table downstairs. Thank you to everyone who participated.



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



**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.

**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!

**“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!





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!

**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!**

*We want to thank our Church Family for remembering us at college and on base. Our gift cards were gratefully appreciated. We look forward to a Sunday off and coming home on leave to be able to worship with you again*

~ Jordyn Nichols & Jake Hane

## December Calendar

**TODAY** – 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 Candlelight Worship Service – 7:00 pm



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

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

