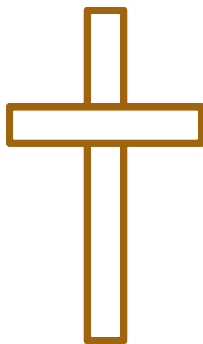




---

Come, Lord Jesus!

---



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

**Third Sunday of Advent**

*Come, Lord Jesus—as MESSIAH!*

**W**elcome! 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:** Savior Jesus, at your first Advent (coming) you arrived in humility as the promised Messiah. Bless me with trust and hope for your glorious second advent when you reveal heaven to every believer. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** We all want a certain kind of Messiah (Savior). The Jews wanted a political Messiah to free them from Rome. Many today want a generic Messiah who is a good teacher and example. One who isn't bothered by our particular sins and doesn't call for total dedication but only partial focus. We want a Messiah who dispenses blessings in life, not challenges and times of sacrifice.

That is not the Messiah who came. But Jesus does not fail to meet our expectations; he surpasses them in the most important ways. He fulfilled every prophecy. He did every good work necessary. So Christians waiting for Christ's coming wait patiently and confidently, because at just the right time our Messiah will fix all that is broken.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** The Latin word adventus means "coming." The last words in Scripture are "Come, Lord Jesus!" We enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End when Jesus will come and destroy this sin-broken world. Of course, we also near our celebration of Jesus' first "Advent." At Christmas the Son of God became also the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. Because Christ came, we eagerly await when he comes again. Indeed, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!

**A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION:** Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion. In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we ask you not to take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org) + 651-439-7831

[rwolfe@salemlutheran.org](mailto:rwolfe@salemlutheran.org) + [jschram@salemlutheran.org](mailto:jschram@salemlutheran.org)

# Order of Worship



Minister: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## ADVENT CONFESSIOIN & FORGIVENESS

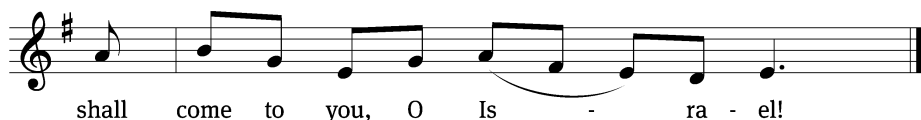
M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

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*)

## HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327, st 1



M: God sent his Son when the time had fully come. 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.** (*Gal 4:4,5; 1 Peter 1:8,9*)

*The Advent Candle of joy is lit during the singing of the special verse.*

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-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the joy 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*)

*Refrain*  
Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### ***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.**

### ***First Reading***

*Isaiah 64:4-5,8-9*

*God's people await a Messiah sent by a merciful God who forgives sin by grace.*

<sup>4</sup>Since ancient times no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You come to the help of those who gladly do right,

who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,

you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

<sup>8</sup>Yet you, LORD, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;

do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,

for we are all your people.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

James 5:7-11

*Knowing what the Messiah's coming means, we want it now. God encourages us to be patient and wait for his time.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Men's Chorus Anthem

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
Come now to earth and with your people dwell,  
The world awaits from heav'n a holy sign,  
O come and show to us the light divine.

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
As age to age the prophets did foretell;  
Redeemer, come to save us one and all,  
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.

For your coming we prepare,  
Wisdom from on high,  
Gracious spirit, Lord most fair:  
Now to us draw nigh.  
O come, O come, Immanuel  
And free your children, Israel,  
Be now our hope, our comfort from above,  
And bless us all with everlasting love;  
O bless us all with everlasting love.

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

*Jesus answers John's doubts that he is truly the promised Messiah and commends John as a great prophet.*

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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 sts 1-3, 5



- 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,
- 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.  
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  
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.  
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

### Sermon

“Form Me, Lord”

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## THANKSGIVING

### Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**



God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. 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

*Please stand.*

## Prayer of the Church

### 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.*

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

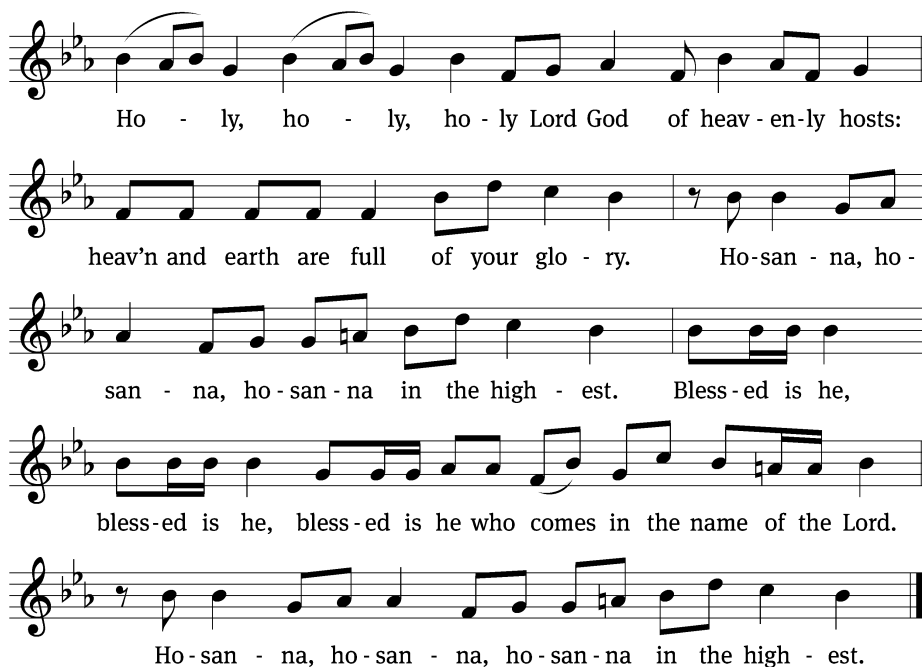
**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
 san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,  
 bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

# 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.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

## 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.*

## Distribution Hymn: Take and Eat

CW 676

*Soloist sings the first refrain and the verses. The congregation sings the remaining refrains.*



2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;

3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;

4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;

I am the gate that guards you night and day;

a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;  
I am the life that rais - es up the dead;  
you are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;  
You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.  
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.  
you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.  
like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

5 I am the light that came into the world;  
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;  
I am the Morning Star that never sets;  
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (*Refrain*)

6 I am the first and last, the Living One;  
I am the Lord who died that you might live;  
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;  
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (*Refrain*)

*Please stand at the pastor's direction after the sacrament.*

## **Response of Thanksgiving**

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

**C: His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalms 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*

## **Closing Prayer & Blessing**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.  
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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: There Is a Redeemer

CW 519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope\_ for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in\_ that ho - ly place.

### Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

After worship, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry.

Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary.

Adult and Teen Bible studies begin at 9:15 in the fellowship hall and youth room.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Come, Lord Jesus—as IMMANUEL

Bible Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Hymns: 327, 322, 496, 307

## **PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

# ***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** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † 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 at the entrance to the sanctuary or as it's passed during the service.

## **FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship 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 to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**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.**

