



---

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 IMMANUEL!*

**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:** Gracious Holy Spirit, our Christmas celebration draws closer every day. Use this holy day and its excitement to lead us back to you in worship and prayer and praise. Bless me through your Word. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** This time of year it is easy to get caught up in the beautiful trappings of Christmas and forget why this birth had to take place. Mankind fell into sin, bringing with it hatred and oppression, suffering and pain, guilt and shame. With sin came the devastation of death. And tragically we can do nothing of substance to stop it. We can numb ourselves to pain, but we cannot avoid it. We can fill our life with distractions to forget our guilt, but our conscience is always nagging. And death...no one avoids that.

Since the Garden, there has been only one plan to save mankind. God would take on flesh and blood and become man. When we look at the baby in the manger we see more. That child is Immanuel, "God-with-us." The Son of God became Mary's son, so that he could do for us what we could not do for ourselves. Save us from our sin.

**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!

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Worship Leader: Pastor Jake Schram  
Piano: Madison Boerner

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 CONFSSION & 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



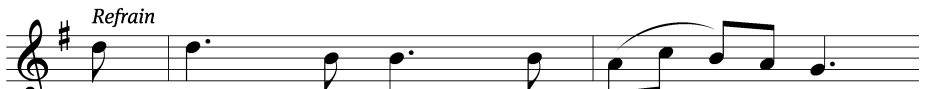
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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 *love* candle. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

C: **This is *love*: not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.** (*Gal 4:4,5; 1 John 4:9,10*)

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

O, come, my Love, who gives to me Grace un - de - served, un -  
end - ing, free. Help me to share this gift most rare  
That all, God's hope and peace, may share. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the love 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

*The Lord promised that deliverance would come through the gift of Immanuel. And how would we recognize him? He would be born of a virgin.*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 1:1-7*

*After thousands of years of promises from God, St. Paul sees them all fulfilled in Christ. Jesus is Immanuel, true God and true man.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him we received

grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup>And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

*In faith, Joseph accepted that within the womb of his bride-to-be was Immanuel—the very Son of God, the promised Savior from sin.*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

## Hymn of the Day: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CW 322



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in



set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and  
all the earth thou art, dear de - sire of  
child and yet a king, born to reign in  
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -



sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Sermon

Matthew 1:18-25

### *"Two Names for the Christmas Miracle"*

- 1) "Immanuel" for the miraculous birth
- 2) "Jesus" for the miraculous work

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## THANKSGIVING

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## **Offering**



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.



*Please stand.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C:** **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

**M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C:** **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

**M:** You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C:** **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

**M:** Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C:** **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*



M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! 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.

## Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts 2-4



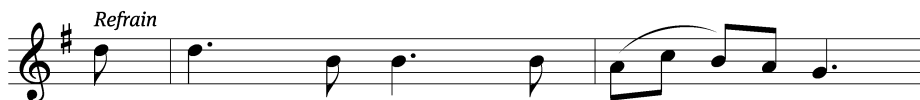
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through 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: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

CW 496



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, to the maid - en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth to the fall - en here on earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, giv - en to the ho - ly Child



un - to which must ev - 'ry knee bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, by the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
for the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."  
when the cup of hu - man woe first he tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
under all the mighty heav'n  
whereby those to sin enslaved  
burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
human name of God above;  
pleading only this, we flee  
helpless, O our God, to thee.

## **Silent Prayer and Announcements**

### **WELS Connection Video**

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

### **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.



## **Christmas Celebration – A Savior is Born!**

Saturday, December 24th (3 & 5pm)—  
A Savior born to change the world

Sunday, December 25th (10am)—  
A Savior born to dwell among us

Sunday, January 1st (normal service times)—  
A Savior born to be the true Son

Sunday, January 8th (normal service times)—  
A Savior born for all the nations

# 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.

