

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2022 & January 1, 2023



A SAVIOR IS BORN



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org

Welcome! 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, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Christmas holidays mean family time. Extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts given, memories are made. But the memories aren't always good. Christmas dinners sometimes end in fights. Hurt feelings sometimes keep family from coming together during the holidays.

God knows what broken family relationships are like too. He wanted his children to be everything he hoped for them to be, but sinful people brought division and disappointment. So instead God the Father sent Jesus to be the perfect and true son that we haven't been. Jesus came to be everything God wanted from us. And because of this true Son, in faith we are redeemed sons and daughters of God: with the same rights, relationship, and privileges as true heirs of heaven.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: The Christmas angel said, "A Savior has been born." Humanity doesn't need help - we need saving. At Christmas God sent more than a coach. He sent his only Son to be the Savior we need.

After December 25 the secular world is done with Christmas. But for the Church, the season of Christmas continues. For twelve glorious days—The Twelve Days of Christmas—we ponder the nativity of the Son of God. We celebrate what that nativity means. A Savior is born!

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jake Schram

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Lauren Shult

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Order of Worship



HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 sts. 1-3



- 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Please stand.

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I now ask you in the presence of God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his wrath and punishment?

C: I do confess my many sins and admit that I deserve God's punishment.

M: Do you willingly repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed? And do you promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life?

C: I do repent of my sins and promise to amend my sinful ways.

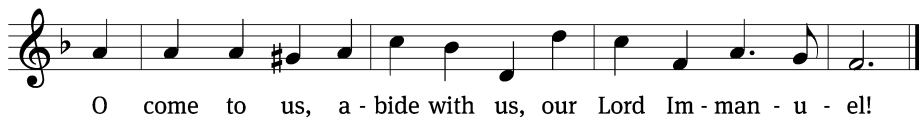
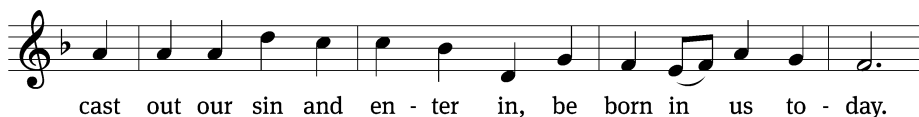
M: Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

C: I do believe, for God has promised that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 st. 4



THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

God is kind. When his children turned away from him, he sent a Savior to redeem them.

⁷I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
⁸He said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me";
and so he became their Savior.
⁹In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Since we have been redeemed by God's true Son, we can now call God "Father."

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

God's plan was to save the world by having his true Son serve as our substitute, dying on the cross. And so God saves his true Son from an early death.

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—

a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me

to help me in my need,

to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door

of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;

to God our thanks we pay,

to God our thanks we pay.

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



 **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

M: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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: Love Has Come

CW 364

A soloist will sing verse one. The congregation may join in verses 2-4.



1 Love has come, a light in the dark-ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come share in the won-der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er-



Beth-le-hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro-claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth-er;
last-ing and free. Love is Je-sus with-in and a-mong us.



hear how their song of joy a-ris-es: Love! Love! Born un-to
what is the name her heart is say-ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav-ior! Love! Love! Glo-ry to God on high!
name she whis-pers. Love! Love! Je-sus, Im-man-u-el.
gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

CW 356



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,
this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - dant light,
and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



Refrain
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM will NOT meet this week, but families are invited to the fellowship hall for regular Bible study beginning at 9:15am.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Savior is born for all the nations (AND Pastor Jake farewell)

Bible Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns: 384, 377, 677, 950

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 as it's passed during the service or give online.

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.**

