



The King Shall Come

PREPARE TO MEET HIM



Salem Lutheran

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Second Sunday in Advent

The King Shall Come— Prepare to Meet Him

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: Holy Spirit, bless me today as you work in my heart through Word and Sacrament. Comfort me with the good news of forgiveness and lead me to a life of faithful service. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Scriptures teach that King Jesus is the Son of God in flesh and the only hope for salvation. You do not approach meeting someone like that casually or carelessly. You prepare meticulously. Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance. This repentance is central to our preparation for the Lord’s coming.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, a word which means “coming.” The greater the guest to our home, the greater the preparations are. In this worship series, we are reminded that the one who is coming to us is King over all. We see why the King came on that first Christmas and why he will come again on Judgment Day. We cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts already now.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close 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 kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Jessica Klatt

Saturday Guest Preacher: Pastor John Berg, Divinity Lutheran Church

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



GATHERING RITE:

Lead Us to Your Light

By. C. Browning

Refrain (Introduced by choir then sung by congregation)



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.

Advent Verses (Sung by soloist/choir)

Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of salvation. *Refrain.*

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world; come, now, and bring us your good news. *Refrain.*

Come, O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Come with us on earth here to dwell. *Refrain.*

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



Congregation: A - men.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to come to him with penitent hearts, knowing that the sins of all who confess him as Savior are forgiven for all eternity. We rejoice in the One who told his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." By his authority, hear his promise from the one he has called. Your sins are forgiven.

M: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.
Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ have mercy.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



C: A - men.

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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah prophesies about one who could come to prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD. This prophecy is fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out."

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar
Alleluia, praise the Lamb! Alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

And my soul, though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.
Alleluia, praise the Lamb! Alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and pain release us; let us find our hope in thee.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
Born to live in us forever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Alleluia, praise the Lamb! Alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

St. Peter reminds us that Judgment Day will come at an unexpected time. So prepare with daily repentance.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

God raised up John the Baptist to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness, preparing people to meet their LORD and King.

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

Hymn of the Day: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

CW 316



1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ’ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Sermon

Based on 2 Peter 3:8-14

“An unexpected message from an unexpected messenger

- 1) See the Advent messenger
- 2) Hear the Advent message

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



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

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.

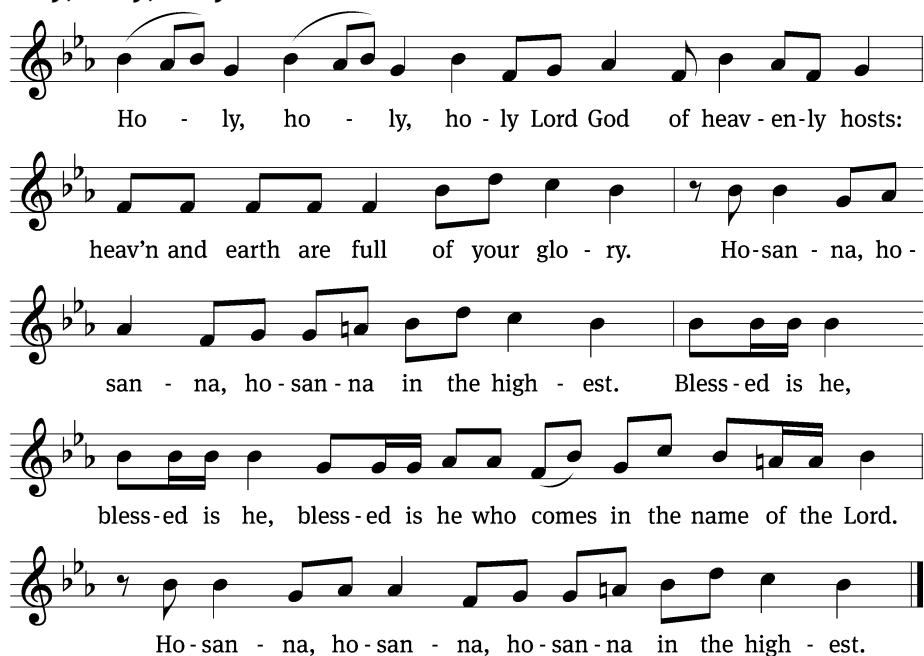
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

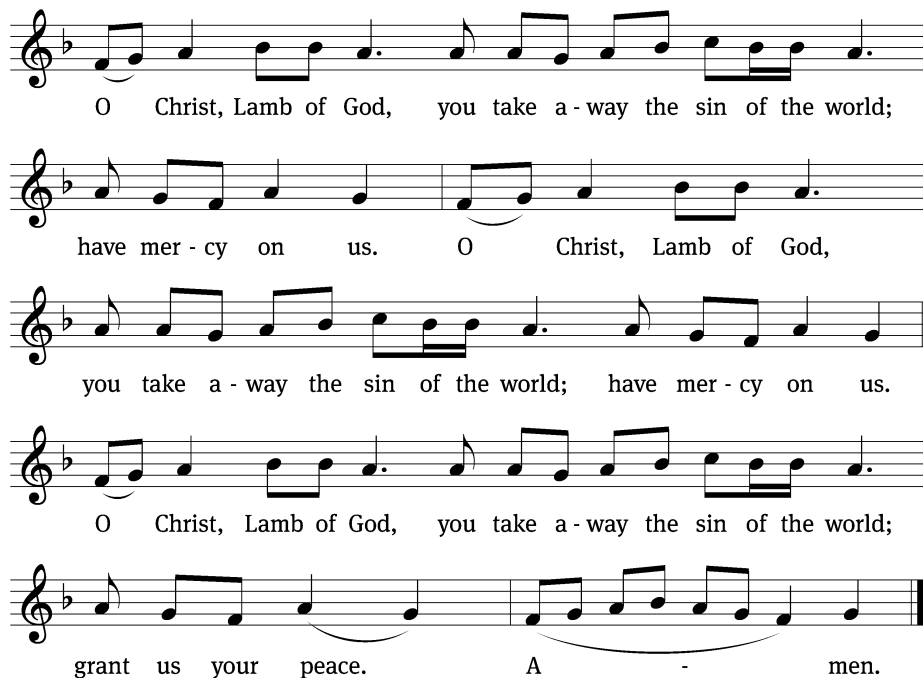
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger 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.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
 our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us
 and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.
 whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
 us the path-way of your peace.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

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: Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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The Advent Wreath

Christians in Europe adapted winter evergreen traditions to the themes of the Advent season centuries ago. Four candles adorn the modern wreath. The candles symbolize God's gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Each week in Advent we light a new candle, leading up to Christmas when we light the central white candle to remember God's greatest gift—Christ himself.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: The King Shall Come to Bring Perfect Joy

Bible Readings: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymns: 524, 324, 315, 493



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Join us!

Midweek Advent Worship

Worship at the Jesse Tree, led by Salem School.

Service at 4 pm, meal served at 5 pm.

December 13 K-1st Grade - Sloppy Joes

December 20 2nd-4th Grade - Spaghetti



Christmas Eve Worship

9 am - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

3 pm/ 5pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship

10 am - Worship with Communion

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. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † 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.**

