



The King Shall Come

HE IS BRINGING
PERFECT JOY



Salem Lutheran

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Third Sunday In Advent

*The King Shall Come—
He is Bringing Perfect Joy*

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: God of Majesty, thank you for your loving protection and blessings this past week. Fill me today with joy in the news of your grace and mercy, and lead me to respond in prayer and praise. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we remember that when the King shall come, he will bring us perfect and everlasting joy. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from your King entering into your heart and assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring.

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.

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.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Pianist: Paige Reiners
Accompanist: Maia Gumbrill

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



(10:30am) CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

Presented by children of Sunday JAM

(Saturday and Sunday 8am services start on page 5.)

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, 4

Congregation sings the verses. Children of Sunday JAM sing the refrains.



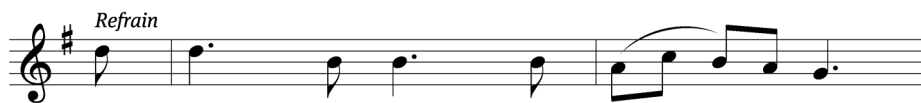
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



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



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

Children's Recitation of Luke 2:8-15

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Sunday JAM Christmas Anthem

What a Glorious Night
By Sidewalk Prophets

The shepherds came to see the baby, stood by his mother's side.
Here laid the Savior inside a manger. Oh what a glorious night.
Oh what a glorious night.

I hear the angels singing halleluiah. Let the earth receive her king.
I know that love has come. Sing it out. Jesus Christ is born. Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds wondered. They couldn't hide it. Told everyone in sight.
All were amazed when they heard how God came down on the glorious night.
God came down on this glorious night.

I hear the angels singing halleluiah. Let the earth receive her king.
I know that love has come. Sing it out. Jesus Christ is born. Jesus Christ is born.

Glorious! Glorious! What a glorious night! (2x)

I hear the angels singing halleluiah. Let the earth receive her king.
I know that love has come. Sing it out. Jesus Christ is born.
Jesus Christ is born. (2x)

All is calm now. All is quiet. A Star shining in the sky.
Below in Bethlehem the king is sleeping. Oh what a glorious night.
Oh what a glorious night.

The children of Sunday JAM invite you to worship next Sunday at 3pm or 5pm for special Christmas Eve services. Let’s celebrate this glorious night together!

The service continues with the announcement of forgiveness on page 5 and the “Word of God” section on page 6.



(5pm & 8am) **GATHERING RITE:**

Lead Us to Your Light

By. C. Browning

Refrain (Introduced by soloist 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)

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.*

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber, banish the darkness of night. *Refrain.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † 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.

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.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist teaches the infinite superiority of Christ Jesus. John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' "

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28

"John's Gospel Begins—The Greatest Gift is Christmas Light"

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.

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... here name the person and the cause of the petition.] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

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: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315 sts. 1-4



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

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: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 493 sts. 1, 4



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid-night comes the cry.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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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 9:10am in the sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week (12/24 Sunday Morning)

Worship theme: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Advent Antiphons

Bible Readings: Great "O" Antiphons from Isaiah

Hymns: 325, 327

For Worship Next Week (12/24 Sunday Evening) - Christmas Eve Candlelight

Worship theme: Good News of Great Joy—A Savior Has Been Born

Bible Readings: Genesis 3:8-15; Micah 5:2-5a; Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-9;

Luke 1:26-28; Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20

Hymns: 362, 363, 333, 328, 330, 350, 337

For Worship Next Week (12/25 Monday Morning) - Christmas Day Festival

Worship theme: Good News of Great Joy—God Became Man

Bible Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Galatians 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

Hymns: 354, 358, 353



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 20 2nd-4th Grade - Spaghetti



Christmas Eve Worship

9 am - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

3 pm/5 pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship

10 am - Worship with Communion



New Years Eve Worship

8/10:30 am - Worship

4:30 pm - Devotional Vespers Service

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 with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ 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 donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**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.**

