

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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: Savior Jesus, on this day when so many celebrate your birth, we give thanks that you have taught us what that birth means. Through your death we are free from death. By your life we have eternal life. Bless us every day in grace and mercy. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: An antiphon is a selection of Scripture and prayer spoken or sung responsively by the minister and the congregation. The Great "O" Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the Scriptural promise or prophecy. You can learn more about the structure of the "O" Antiphon service at the end of the bulletin.

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.

PASCHAL CANDLE : The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty Victor over death and sin. It is lit at every baptism, for *"we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ's resurrection and the Christian's resurrection to life eternal.

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



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.*

Child of the light and love beyond all telling, fill our hearts with wonder and praise. *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.

Rite of Baptism

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says in turn:

M: Cooper David Frederick Ous / Alayna Verelle Ous, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✝ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Exhortation to Parents & Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Cooper and Alayna and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

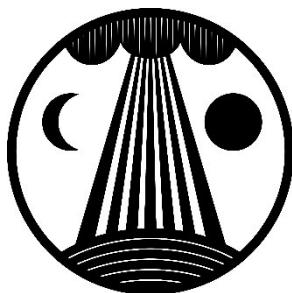
M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Cooper and Alayna as your own children and made them members of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to them and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great "O" Antiphons

After each section of Scripture is read, the congregation responds with a hymn verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" followed by a prayer and responsive Amen. With this "Amen" worshipers show their trust in Christ's promise to come to us.



O Sapientia (Wisdom)

Isaiah 11:2

"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD."

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

♪ Oh, come, O, Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

M: O Wisdom, springing from the mouth of the most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

C: Amen.



O Adonai (Lord)

Isaiah 33:22

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.”

♪ **Oh, come, Oh, come, our Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law, In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

C: **Amen.**



O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)

Isaiah 11:10

“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.”

♪ **Oh, come, O Root of Jesse's stem, From every foe deliver them
From depths of hell your people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

M: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

C: **Amen.**



O Clavis David (Key of David)

Isaiah 22:22

"I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts, no one can open."

♪ **Oh, come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in the darkness and shadow of death.

C: **Amen.**



O Oriens (Dayspring)

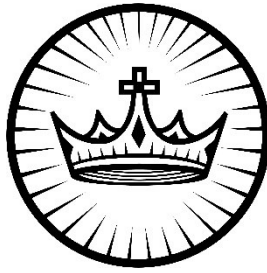
Isaiah 9:2

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned."

♪ **Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

C: **Amen.**



O Rex Gentium (King of Nations)

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

♪ **Oh, come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save the human race, whom you formed out of clay.

C: **Amen.**



O Emmanuel (God with us)

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.”

♪ **Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

C: **Amen.**

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

Adult Confirmation

After instruction with our pastor, we welcome Jason Ous into our church family through adult confirmation. While the practice of confirmation is never mentioned or commanded in Scripture, it is a valuable tradition as new members confess their shared faith with us and as they vow before God, each other, and all of us to remain faithful to him.

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.

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;



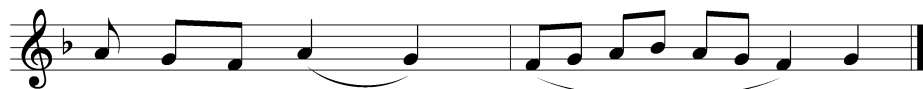
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



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.

Communion Anthem

Come, Come, Immanuel
By J. Althouse

Come, come, Immanuel, a child and yet a King,
Born to reign forever; praise to Thee we sing.

Come, come Immanuel, and set Thy people free;
From fear and sin release us; find our rest in Thee.

Come, come, Immanuel, the Savior promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

Come, come, Immanuel, let all go forth and tell,
the story of the tiny King born in Israel.

Open the heavens wide; God sends a Son.
He is a tiny babe, the blessed, Holy One.

O come, Immanuel, the Son of God to earth.
Let all who know and love Him celebrate the birth.

O, come, Immanuel, the time is drawing near.
Salvation is close at hand, the Son of God is here.

Response of Thanksgiving

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

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 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

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.**

Closing Hymn: My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325



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.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

Vocalists: Diane Light, Kristi Raasch, Nancy Shult, Beth Wurst

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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The Great “O” Antiphons

Each of the “O Antiphons” focuses on a title of Christ from Old Testament prophecy and a petition to Christ to come fulfilling the promise made by that title and prophecy. The Messianic prophecies in Isaiah form the heart of the seven antiphons. Historically, the O Antiphons were sung during Vespers, one each day, seven days before the festival of the Nativity of Christ, from December 17 through December 23.

The “O Antiphons” date back at least to around 800 A.D. (and perhaps back as early as 500 A.D.) By the later Middle Ages, the antiphons had been put together to form the verses of a single hymn, with the addition of a refrain. The earliest known metrical and rhymed form of the O Antiphons—essentially the hymn we know today as “O come, O come, Emmanuel”—did not appear until the early 18th century. It was translated from Latin into English by John Mason Neal, an Anglican (Church of England) minister in 1851. It was paired with the 15th-century tune now known as *Veni Emmanuel*.

The traditional order of the seven antiphons is:

- (1) *Sapientia*: “O Wisdom”
- (2) *Adonai*: “O Lord of Might”
- (3) *Radix Jesse*: “O Root of Jesse”
- (4) *Clavis David*: “O Key of David”
- (5) *Oriens*: “O Dayspring”
- (6) *Rex Gentium*: “O King of Nations”
- (7) *Emmanuel*: “O Emmanuel”

In Latin, the first letter of each antiphon, read in reverse spells “*ero cras*”, which means “Tomorrow I will be” or “Tomorrow I will become.”

The basic progression of thought can be understood this way: The creator of the Universe (Wisdom), who gave the Law (Adonai) was promised through David’s throne (Radix Jesse) to set free the captives of sin (Clavis David) and bring the Light of salvation to dawn (Oriens) not only on His chosen people but all nations (Rex Gentium) and dwell with us as one of us eternally (Emmanuel).

The basic petition through all the verses is an echo of the closing two verses of the Holy Scriptures looking forward to the consummation of all things: **“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with God’s people. Amen.”** (Revelation 22:20-21)

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 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 make a donation 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.

Please note 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.

