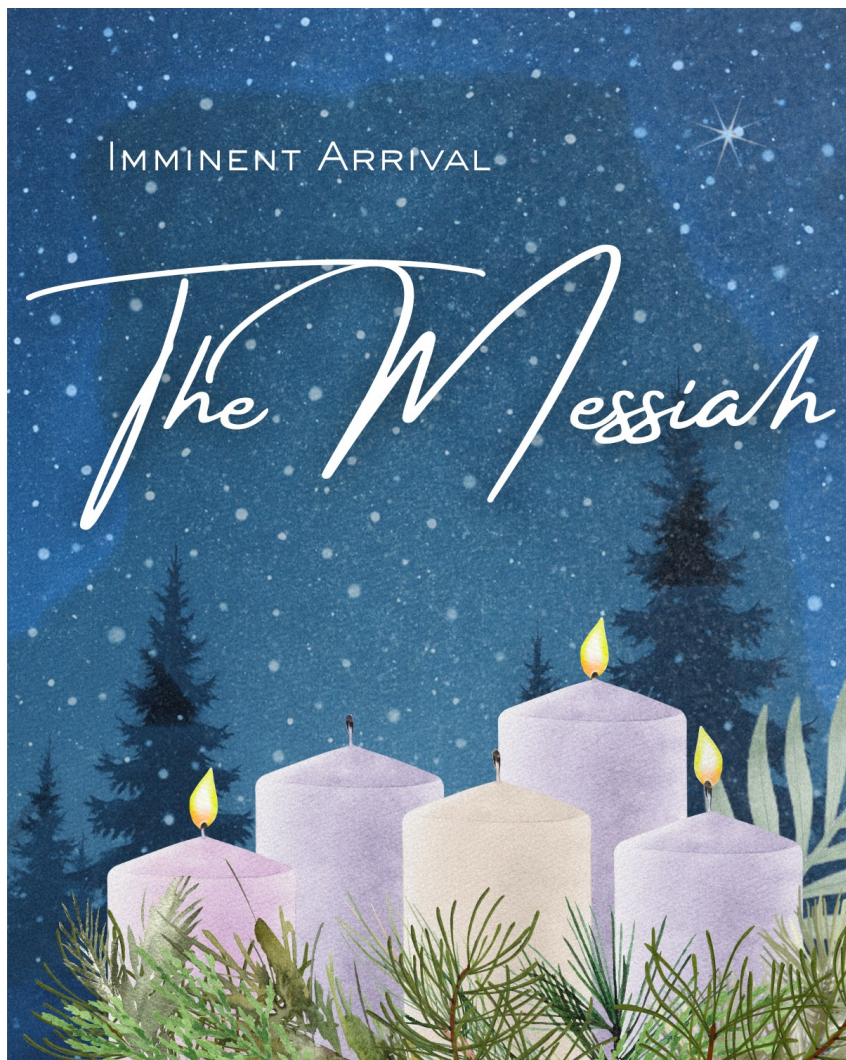


December 14-15, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent



14940 62nd St. N—Stillwater, MN 55082
www.salemlutheran.org
church@salemlutheran.org | 651-439-7831

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: Lord Jesus, you are the one prophesied to come long ago. You made good on your promise to come and take away the sins of the world. Now, Savior of the Nations, come and fulfill the final prophesy, return and call all things to you as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent! 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 ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.

WORSHIP SERIES: Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. We can feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

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 Jon Enter

Sunday Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Accompanist: Jessica Klatt

Organ/Piano: Robyn Stoller, Maia Gumbrill

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Three



Minister: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

Congregation: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CW 322



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - 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.

Please stand.

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

C: Amen.

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

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

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly". The score consists of nine staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins the first line of the hymn. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff continues the melody. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff continues the melody. The eighth staff continues the melody. The ninth staff continues the melody.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther. Lord God. Lamb of God.
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come, he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution he will come to save you."

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Sunday) Choir Anthem: Every Valley

Joseph M. Martin

Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain be made low.

Every valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.

Sound the trumpet, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

I will send my messenger ahead of you,
Who will prepare your way before you. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

Sung to the tune of CW 412 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
to show me how to please you, to guide me ev'ry day.
- 3 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, he's standing at the door
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
- 4 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
his children thus securing eternal life in heav'n.
- 5 He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes,
a light of consolation and blessed hope to those
who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams most cheering, and guide us safely home.

Sermon

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, be-
gotten, 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 Scrip-
tures. 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

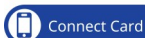
Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

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

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
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 + 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 † 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

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.

If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.

Distribution Hymn: Arise, O Christian People

CW 310



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
best; cast out what would of - fend him, this
high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the
haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



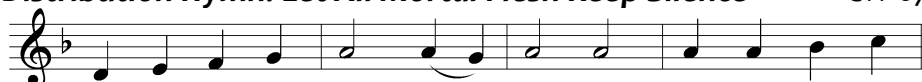
lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of
right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.
pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.
prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Distribution Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man like - ness,
on the way as the Light from Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ, our God, to earth de -
in the bod - y and the blood he will give to all the
from the realms of end - less day, comes the pow'rs of hell to
as with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing, comes our hom - age to com - mand.
faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish as the dark-ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

After the distribution 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.

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: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; 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: There Is a Redeemer

CW 519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Imminent Arrival of My Lord and My God

Bible Readings: Judges 6:36-40, Hebrews 10:35-11:1, John 20:24-29

Hymns: 892, 468, 321

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.

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 your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly 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.**

