NOVEMBER

29

2026

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Bring your Gift of Salvation



Salem Lutheran Church & School - Stillwater, MN

14940 62nd St N | 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: Savior Jesus, once again we begin another church year with the good news of your forgiveness and the joy of your presence. Bless me through your Word and promises, and hear my prayers and praise. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: In many cultures, it is customary to bring a gift when you visit someone. Whether it is flowers or wine or toys for the kids, such presents are welcome. They are highly appreciated when they meet a great need in the household, and poignant when the gift giver sacrifices to make the gift. Every household has some great needs in common. We have spiritual enemies, sinful failures, and frequent shortcomings. But the Lord Jesus is about to arrive with gifts! He does not come empty-handed. He brings salvation, won by his holy life and innocent sacrificial death, freely given to sinners who could never earn it.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Abigail Ibisch

Guitar: Jim Bourman

SACRED RHYTHM, THE WAY WE WORSHIP:

Centuries ago, Christians in Europe adapted winter evergreen traditions to the themes of the Church Year season of Advent.

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.

Whether this is your first Sunday or your fiftieth, we're glad you're here. ***Scan the code*** *to check in on the Salem app, share a prayer request, and learn more about our church, including what's happening this week and how to get connected.*

Connect Card

Questions? Ask an usher or anyone nearby. We're happy to help! More information, including accessibility and family resources, is on the back page.

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two

Please remain seated.

Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony

M: As we light the first Advent candle, we are reminded that Jesus is "the Light of the World." We read in John 8:12: *"Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

M: Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD. *(Psalm 31:24)*

C: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. *(Psalm 33:20)*

M: The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him. *(Lamentations 3:25a)*

C: Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. *(Romans 5:5)*

M: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *(Romans 15:13)*

C: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised, is faithful. *(Hebrews 10:23)*

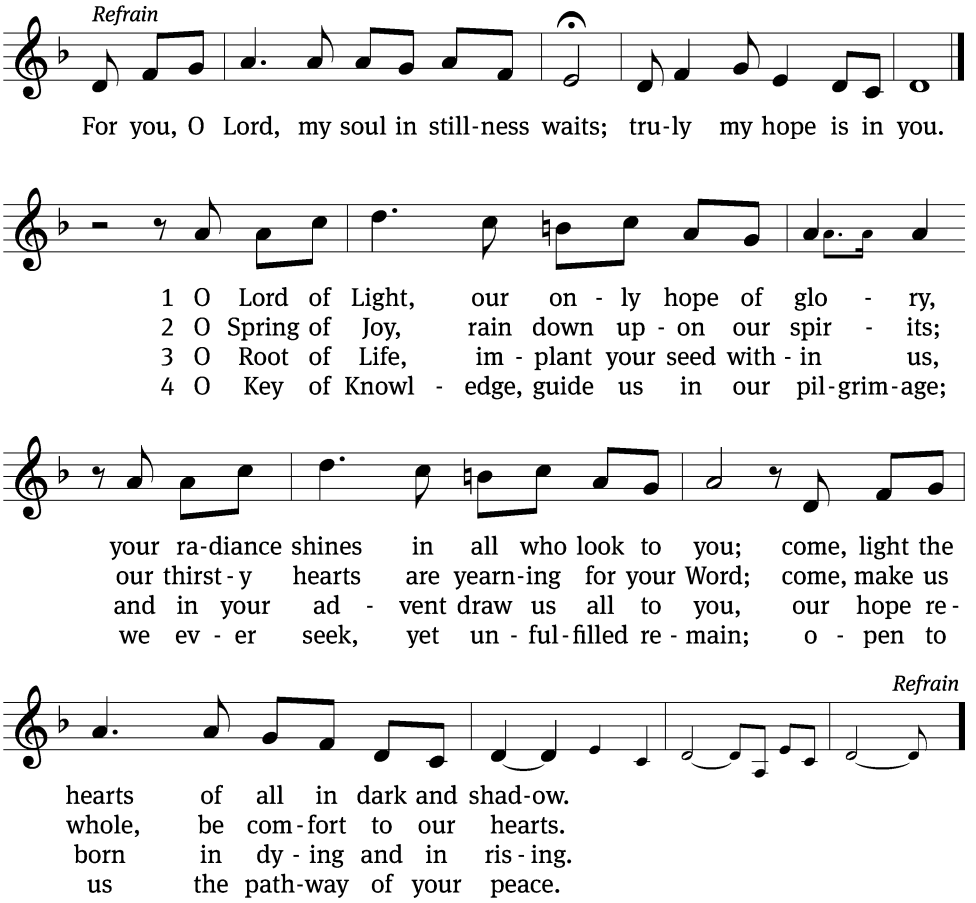
All: May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you. *(Psalm 33:22)*

M: Lord, renew a sense of hope in our hearts. Let your Word and your promises remind us of the hope that our prayers will be answered, that doors of opportunity that seem closed will be opened, that broken relationships will be mended, that diseased bodies will be healed and that damaged trust will be restored. We pray this in eager expectation of our coming Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Hymn: My Soul in Stillness Waits *CW 325*

The Praise Group will sing stanzas one and three. The congregation joins in stanzas two and four.



Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ┼ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness of Sin CW 173

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen

The Word

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

All of us have become unclean, tainted by sin. We need someone to save us.

[1]Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
[2]As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
[3]For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
[4]Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

[5]You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?
[6]All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
[7]No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

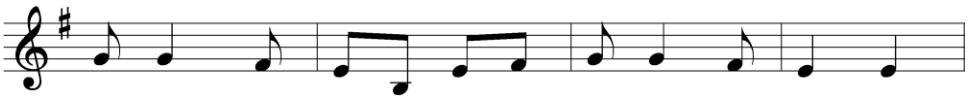
[8]Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

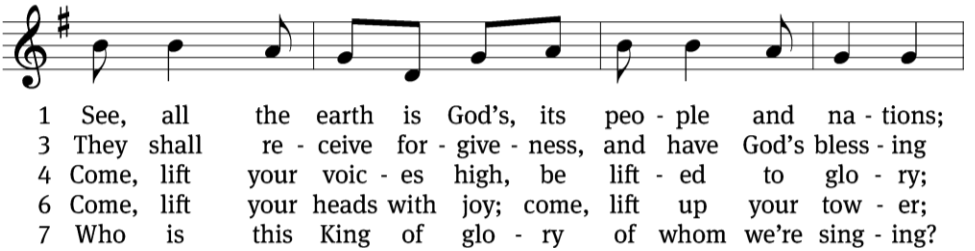
Psalm of the Day: Welcome the King

Psalm 24B sts. Ref–1, 3–4, 6–7

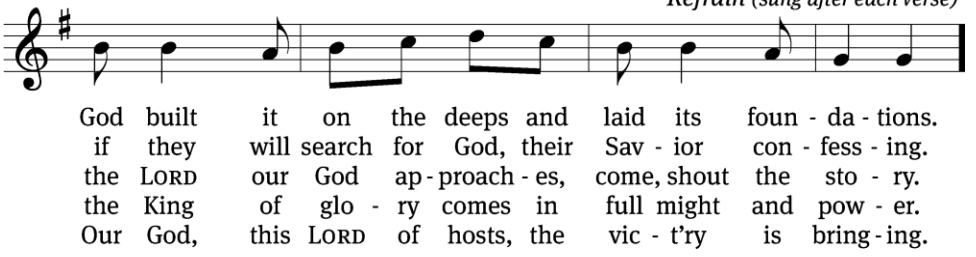
Refrain



Verses



Refrain (sung after each verse)



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Our faithful God promises to enrich us with every spiritual gift.

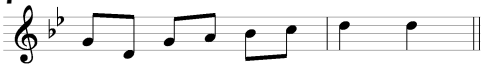
[3]Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[4]I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. [5]For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— [6]God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. [7]Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. [8]He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

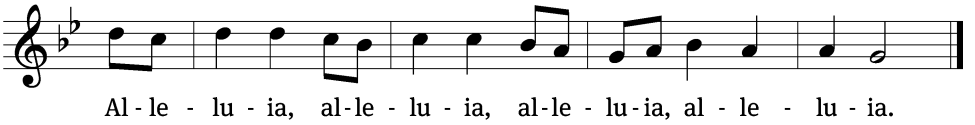
M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation Revelation 22:20



Refrain



He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. ***Refrain***

Gospel *Mark 11:1-10*

When Jesus rides into Jerusalem, the crowd shouts, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"

[1]As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, [2]saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. [3]If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

[4]They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, [5]some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" [6]They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. [7]When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. [8]Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others

spread branches they had cut in the fields. [9]Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

[10]"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

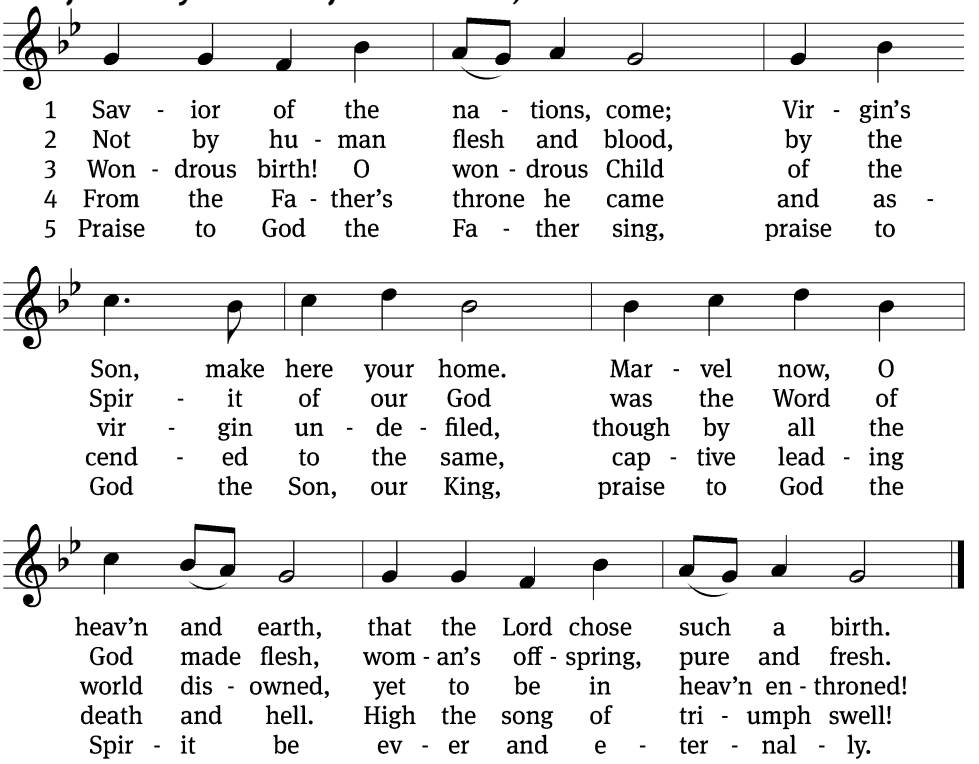
M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: Savior of the Nations, Come CW 301



Sermon

Based on Isaiah 64:1-9

"How Then Can We Be Saved?"

1) God's Power Makes All Tremble
2) God's Justice Makes All Despair
3) God's Mercy Gives Us All Confidence

Please stand after the sermon.

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 QR code on the screen or in the folder. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask all attendees to "check in" using the code on the back of the folder or by filing out the paper card in the pew and putting it in the basket on the rear table as you leave. Please share your prayer requests so that we can pray for you.

Give Online

Please stand after the offering.

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: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

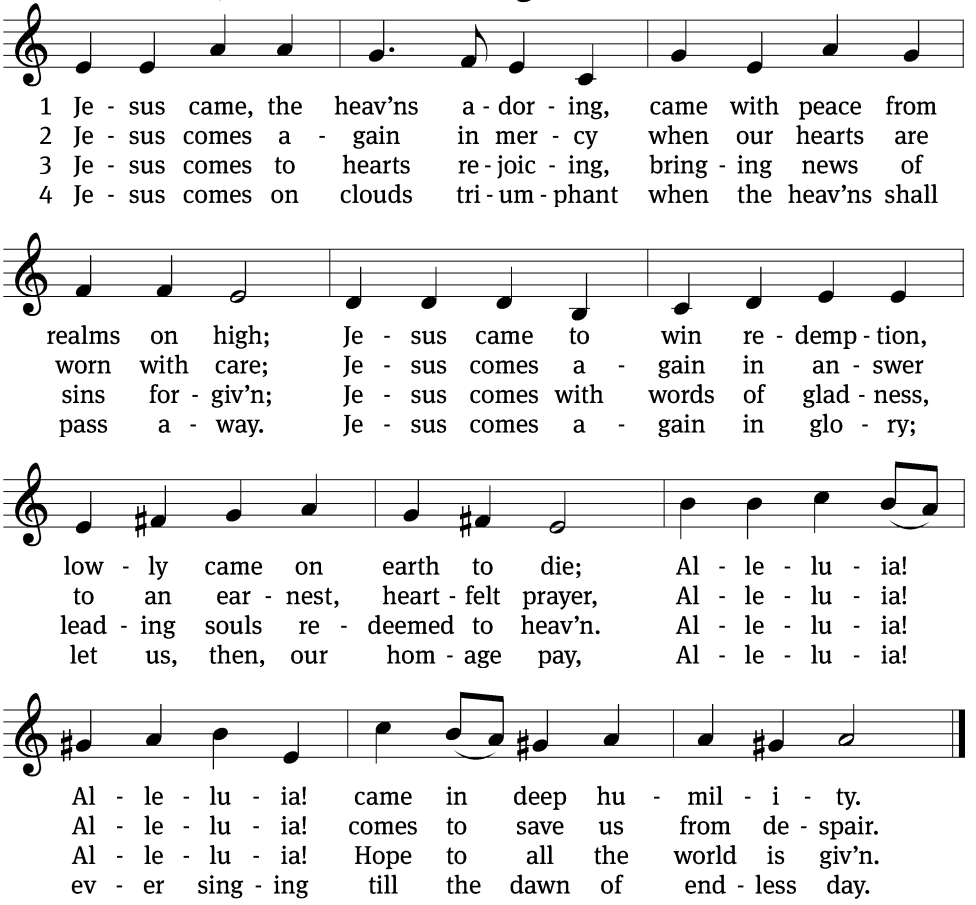
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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: Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring CW 319



Silent Prayer and Announcements

Salem Minute

Acknowledgments
Setting Two from Christian Worship
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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 our 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 and School

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may grow in grace and faith to share eternity.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.