

**Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christmas Day**

**Pastor Bare & Pastor Wilde  
December 25, 2020**

**Welcome**

**Hymn 62 (Children v 1 & 2)**

**Joy to the World**

**Psalm 98 (selected verses)**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song.

**C: For he has done marvelous things.**

P: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**C: The Lord has made his salvation known.**

P: He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**C: Break out in joyful song! Make music!**

**Hymn 62, vv 3 & 4**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Prayer for Christmas Day**

P: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Old Testament Lesson & Devotion**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God is king!" The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the Lord returns to Zion. Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,

because the Lord is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

**Hymn:**

**God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray;**

**Refrain:**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**The New Testament Lesson & Devotion**

**Hebrews 1:1-9**

### **Message of Truth and Glory**

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God's angels worship him. About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire. But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

**Hymn 35, 1,2,5**

**Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Declaration of Grace and Life**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Hymn 61**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Our Christmas Confession of Faith**

**Luther's Explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

Hymns 67 & 43

Bringing Forward of Offerings

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;  
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!

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To thee my heart I offer, O Christchild sweet and dear,  
Upon thy love relying; Oh, be thou ever near!  
Take thou my heart and give me thine, And let it be forever mine,  
O Jesus, holy, undefiled, My Savior meek and mild.

My heart within is glowing, O Christchild sweet and dear.  
I love thee, Lord and Savior; Oh, be thou ever near!  
I see thee in a manger laid, Near cattle resting unafraid;  
I see thy deep humility And lowly bow to thee.

What brought thee to the manger, O Christchild, sweet and dear?  
Thy love for me, a stranger -- Oh, be thou ever near!  
O Lord, how great is this thy love That reaches down from heav'n above,  
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, That made thee, God, a child!

Let me be thine forever, O Christchild sweet and dear.  
Uphold me with thy mercy; Oh, be thou ever near!  
From thee I gladly all receive, And what is mine to thee I give;  
My heart, my soul, and all I own -- Let these be thine alone.

## **Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

### **Closing Words of Encouragement**

P: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be for all people:

**C: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord."**

P: The Lord is comforting his people.

**C: He is redeeming Jerusalem.**

P: In these last days, God has spoken to us by his Son.

**C: The Son is the radiance of God's glory.**

P: The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.

**C: We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## **Blessing**

## **Announcements**

### **Hymn 49**

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of glory.  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story.  
My soul, Extol  
God's great favor; Bless him ever  
For salvation.  
Give him praise and adoration.**

### **Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn**