

**Salem Ev Lutheran Church
Advent 3**

**Pastor Bare & Pastor Wilde
December 10 & 13, 2020**

Welcome

Advent 3 Responsive:

P: We have lit three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: **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.**

P: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We have lit three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

The Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

♪ **O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are
My comfort and my guiding star;
I come, a sinner, trustingly
And bring my many sins with me.**

P: The word is near you;

C: **It is in your mouth and in your heart.**

P: It is with your heart that you believe and are justified,

C: **And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

P: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

C: **Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.**

♪ **O Lord, my sin indeed is great;
I groan beneath the dreadful weight.
Be merciful to me, I pray;
Take guilt and punishment away.**

P: All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: **So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

P: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**♪ Saint John the Baptist points to you
And bids me cast my sin on you,
For you have left your throne on high
To suffer for the world and die.**

P: God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**♪ Help me to change my ways, O Lord,
And gladly to obey your Word.
While here I live, abide with me,
Then take me home eternally.**

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord to display his beauty. I will rejoice greatly in the Lord. My soul will celebrate because of my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me, like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest, and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry. For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up, so God the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in the presence of all the nations.

Hymn 12, vv 1 & 3

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

The New Testament Lesson**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not extinguish the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt. But test everything. Hold on to the good. Keep away from every kind of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Verse of the Day

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

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. This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said." They had been sent from the Pharisees. So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymn 14

**Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.**

**Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.**

**The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation -- It is the Lord's delight.**

**Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.**

The Sermon**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24****You Are God's People: Faithful & Eager**

The 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.

Hymn 5, vv 1-4

**As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name
Of him who from the Father came.**

**He came, not clothed in majesty
Nor pow'r that suits his deity.
In lowly state he walked till he
In dying set us captives free.**

**This done, he soared to God's right hand,
Yet orphaned not his chosen band,
For he, not bound in grace and pow'r,
Attends his own each day and hour.**

**In ev'ry age -- let praise abound --
He comes; we hear his voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease
To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.**

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 7

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.**

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

**The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.**

**Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.**

Offerings are collected at the door on your way out. If you're a visitor today, we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of our worship. In fact, we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! The offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering, we thank you for praising God with your generosity.

The Owosso Lutheran Hour broadcast is provided by a member in thankfulness to God for their many blessings.

This week at Salem:

Sunday	8 & 10:30am	Worship Services
	9:30am	Bible Class
	1:30pm	Public School Confirmation Class
Monday	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Tuesday	10:30am	Bible Class
	5:30pm	Board for Christian Educaiton
	6:45pm	Voters' Meeting – 2 nd reading of the 2021 budget
	7:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	6:00pm	Handbells
	7:00pm	Bible Information Class
Thursday	5:00pm	MASK REQUIRED Communion Service
	7:00pm	Communion Service

November 29

To Date

Offerings received	\$11,160.10	\$508,782.92
FEF/Tuition/ Reg	\$ 1,028.63	\$ 29,832.24
Other/ Interest	\$ 7.30	\$ 1,016.25
Total:	\$ 12,196.03	\$539,631.41



Budgetary needs	\$12,588.37	\$604,119.84**
Difference	-\$392.34	-\$ 64,488.43
Owed to internal line of credit:	\$0	

** Budgetary needs are based on our 2020 budget; our expenses in 2020 have been considerably under-budget due to Covid closures and our Synod health insurance and pension holiday of one month and one quarter, respectively. Our God is good!



December 19
 3:30-5:30pm
 A FREE NO CONTACT
 DRIVE-THRU EVENT
 Virtual Christmas story & song lesson
 Christmas goodie bag!
 Make at home craft!

