

**Salem Ev Lutheran Church
Advent 4**

**Pastor Bare & Pastor Wilde
December 17 & 20, 2020**

Welcome

Advent 4 Responsive:

P: We have lit four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

P: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We have lit four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

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.**

♪ **The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria! (24:1)**

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.**

♪ **"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria! (24:2)**

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.**

♪ **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria! (24:3)**

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. Amen.

♪ **Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria! (24:4)**

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson

2 Samuel 7:8-16

You are also to say the following to my servant David. This is what the Lord of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord himself will make a house for you. When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

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**Romans 16:25-27**

Now to him who is able to strengthen you— according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith— to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson**Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible for God." Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Hymn 23, vv 1,2,4

**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!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

You Are God's People: Humble & Ready

The 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, begotten, 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 fully 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 Scriptures.

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.

Hymn 19, vv 1-4

**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.**

**Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!**

**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.**

**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 A heritage in heav'n.**

The 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 Celebration of Holy Communion

*♪ Your only Son no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

P: 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.”

*♪ Your gift of love they crucified; they laughed and scorned him as he died;
The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

P: 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.”

*♪ I was so lost I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. (CWS 748)*

Distribution

*The communicant members of Salem are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with a pastor prior to the service before communing. We don’t want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we’ve had an opportunity to explain them. The pastors would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God’s Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!
Communicants who desire grape juice instead of wine may indicate so by raising an index finger as they approach the pastor. If you require a gluten free wafer, please speak to a pastor prior to worship.*

P: 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.

The Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 2

**Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous
Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!**

**From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell –
High the song of triumph swell!**

**Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.**

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.

This week at Salem:

Sunday	8 & 10:30am	Communion Services
	9:30am	Bible Class
	1:30pm	Public School Confirmation Class
Monday	6:30pm	Bible Study VIA ZOOM
Wednesday	7:00pm	Bible Information Class
Thursday	6:00pm	MASK Required Candlelight Service
	8 & 10pm	Candlelight Service
Friday	10:00am	Christmas Festival Service

**In Loving Memory of
Joan Clark
Entered Earthly Life: May 18, 1935
Entered Eternal Life: December 6, 2020**

**In Loving Memory of
David Edward Ross
Entered Earthly Life: September 30, 1944
Entered Eternal Life: December 15, 2020**

Poinsettia flowers are placed by

Mary Lou Triggs in loving memory of her parents Louis & Mary Schlaack

Rutheve Donahue, Paul, Trisha, Aubrey & Riley in loving memory of her mother, Amy & sister,
Nancy White

Shelia Steinke in thankfulness to God for his many blessings

Richard & Marie Spalding in thankfulness to God for his many blessings

Pam Starkweather in loving memory of her husband, David and sister, Linda Eldridge

Jerry Kreuer in loving memory of his wife, Gretchen

Willi Guth in loving memory of his wife, Eleanor

The front door wreaths were placed in loving memory of Dean Rogers.