

Welcome

Advent 2 Responsive:

- P: We have lit two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.
- C: **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**
- P: We hear his call to repent.
- C: **We have lit two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**
- 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.**

♪ "Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace," so says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over." (11:1)

- 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.**

♪ All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness. (11:2)

- 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.**

♪ John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;

Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him. (11:3)

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.

♪ **Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken. (11:4)**

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, 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

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice was saying, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry out?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the Lord blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever. Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” Look, God the Lord will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

Response Hymn 12: 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

2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with

great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

The Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way for you. A voice of one calling out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight." John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Hymn 9

**Jesus, your Church with longing eyes
For your expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise
And glory beam from heaven's gates?**

**E'en now, when tempests round us fall
And wintry clouds o'er cast the sky,
Your words with pleasure we recall
And know that our redemption's nigh.**

**Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
Our rooted enmity subdue,
And crown your gospel with success.**

**Oh, come and reign o'er ev'ry land;
Let Satan from his throne be hurled.
Let nations bow to your command;
Let grace revive a dying world.**

**Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for your appointed hour,
And fit us by your grace to share
The triumphs of your conqu'ring pow'r.**

The Sermon

2 Peter 3:8-14

YOU ARE GOD'S PEOPLE: REPENTANT & EXPECTANT

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 6

**Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit Raise us to your glorious throne.**

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.

Prayer

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

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

Announcements

Hymn 23:2

**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!**

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 Tom & Marcia Hamill in thankfulness to God as they celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary.

The Altar Flowers are placed by Phil & Pam Strauch in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary and in thankfulness to God for their many blessings.

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
	7:00pm	Bible Information Class
Tuesday	10:30am	Bible Class
	6:00pm	Handbells
Wednesday	7:00pm	Advent Service
Thursday	5:00pm	MASK REQUIRED Worship Service
	7:00pm	Worship Service

	November 22	To Date
Offerings received	\$ 9,137.35	\$497,622.53
FEF/Tuition/ Reg	\$ 0	\$ 28,803.61
Other/ Interest	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,008.95</u>
Total:	\$ 9,137.35	\$527,435.09
Budgetary needs	\$12,588.37	\$591,534.01**
Difference	-\$3,451.02	-\$ 64,098.92
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!



If you would like to volunteer to help before, during and/or after, please contact the church office.

