



# Salem Lutheran Church

Assistant Minister: Judy N.

Lay Reader: Kay T.

## First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

9:30 am

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

A Amen.

L Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L Reconciling God,

A we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

L God's grace upon grace flows over you. Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

A Amen.

### OPENING HYMN

*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,<br>and come your lowly bed to see;<br>enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,<br>that we the way to you may find.                   | 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,<br>and to us all your grace accord;<br>true faith and love to us impart,<br>that we may hold you in our heart. |
| 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,<br>and kiss the ground before your feet.<br>Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night<br>that gave you birth, our soul's delight. | 4 Until at last we too proclaim,<br>with all your saints, your glorious name;<br>in paradise our songs renew,<br>and praise you as the angels do. |

## GREETING

L Glory to God in the highest!

### **A And Peace to God's People on Earth!**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **A And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

### **A And also with you.**

L Let us pray,

**A O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

### **LESSON: ISAIAH 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

*"All My Heart Again Rejoices"*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 All my heart again rejoices<br>as I hear, far and near,<br>sweetest angel voices;<br>"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,<br>till the air ev'rywhere<br>now with joy is ringing.        | 3 Come, then, let us hasten yonder;<br>here let all, great and small,<br>kneel in awe and wonder;<br>love him who with love is yearning;<br>hail the star that from far<br>bright with hope is burning. |
| 2 Jesus' voice from lowly manger<br>softly thus calls to us:<br>"You are safe from danger;<br>come and see; from all that grieves you<br>you are freed; all you need<br>I will surely give you." | 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish;<br>though my breath fail in death,<br>I will never perish:<br>by your side in light eternal<br>I shall be endlessly<br>filled with joy supernal.                   |

## **LESSON: HEBREWS 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” <sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” <sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

*“All Earth Is Hopeful”*

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## **LESSON: MATTHEW 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

<sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN

### *“Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning”*

- 1 Gentle Joseph heard a warning  
from an angel in the night;  
valiant Mary, maiden mother,  
roused from sleep, prepared for flight:  
thus the Christ-child's fam'ly lived out  
what the prophet had foretold,  
that he might be called from Egypt  
as God's people were of old.
- 2 Targets of a tyrant's army,  
seeking safety, fleeing strife,  
leaving house and land and kindred,  
spurred by dreams of peaceful life;  
through the desert of unknowing  
and the night of doubt they went,  
guided by God's promised presence,  
by that trust made confident.
- 3 Give us, God, such faith and courage  
when we move from place to place,  
and to those who come among us,  
make us channels of your grace.  
Let us see in ev'ry stranger  
refugees from Bethlehem,  
help us offer each one welcome  
and receive the Christ in them.

## APOSTLES' CREED

- L God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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## OFFERING HYMN

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

- 1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.
- 3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

## OFFERING PRAYER

L Generous God,

**A** you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the means of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Hear us, O God.

**A** Your mercy is great.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

## HYMN

*"What Child Is This"*

- 1 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!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 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!

## **BLESSING**

L God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## **DISMISSAL**

L The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Christ, Blessings in this New Year, Go in peace and proclaim this good news.

**A Thanks be to God.**

# Happy New Year

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares  
the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to  
give you a future and a hope.."

Jeremiah 29:11

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## **Welcome Guests & Visitors!**

We hope you found the worship service meaningful. If you or someone you know would like information about Salem; program offerings, perhaps looking for a church home or some other need: Please contact the church office (651-457-6661) or Diane Hueller (651-451-0307)