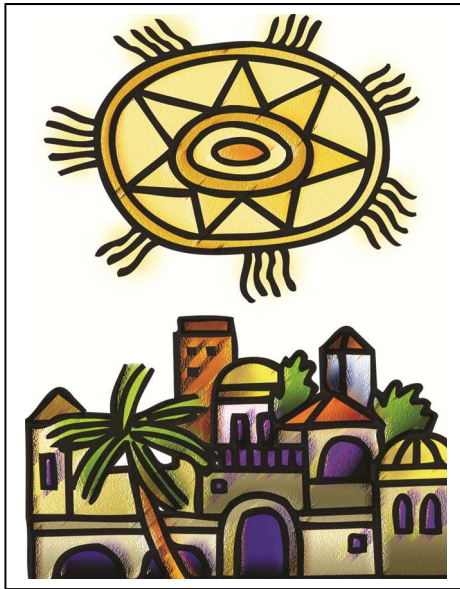




Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS –  
JANUARY 3, 2021—8:30AM



*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

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## GATHERING

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**PRELUDE**  
**BELL**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## CHRISTMAS LITANY

*Welcome the Light*

In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

**Welcome the Light!**

By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

**Welcome the Light!**

Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

**Welcome the Light!**

Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkle in their eyes.

**Welcome the Light!**

In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**Welcome the Light!**

There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

**Welcome the Light!**

Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

**Welcome the Light!**

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

**Welcome the Light!**

In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

**Welcome the Light!**

Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

**Welcome the Light!**

And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

**Welcome the Light!**



GATHERING HYMN “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” (verses 1-4)ELW #301



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the  
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness  
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this  
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.  
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,  
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions  
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to  
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous  
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the  
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.  
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.  
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.  
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE SONG

“Love Has Come”

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-12

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW #514



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

## GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *Grace upon Grace*  
Assistant to the Bishop North Eastern Iowa Synod

Pastor Mark Anderson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The First Noel*

Vol.5

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Christmas Offering*

Vol.5

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

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## **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**



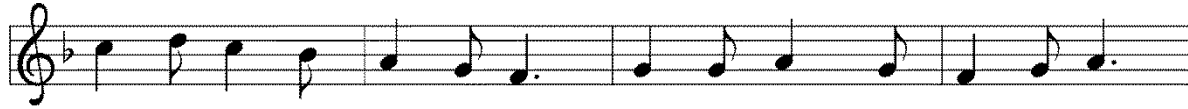
**SENDING HYMN**

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

**ELW #288**



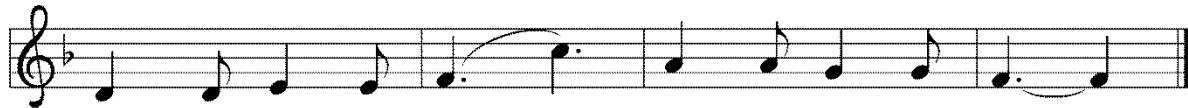
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

<b>Preaching:</b> Pastor Joel Guttormson	<b>Altar Guild for JANUARY:</b>
<b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon	Joan Kloster and Janet Swenson

The radio broadcast this morning is given in loving memory of R. James Tweed and Vince Tweed by Doris Tweed.

**Salem Contact Information:**

**Pastor Joel Guttormson:** 641.596.0535

**Email:** joelguttormson@gmail.com

**Ruth Sheldon, Organist:** 641.592.0184

**Salem Office:** 641.592.1771

**Email:** salem@wctatel.net

**Marci Adeogun, Admin. Asst:** 641.590.1182

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