



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 - 8:30 a.m.



INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

***Larger print bulletins are available from the ushers.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Christmas Music

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Senior Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27: 1, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;

Be strong, and let your heart take courage;

Wait for the LORD!

ADVENT SONG

Wait for the Lord

ELW #262

The Advent wreath will be lit during the Advent song.



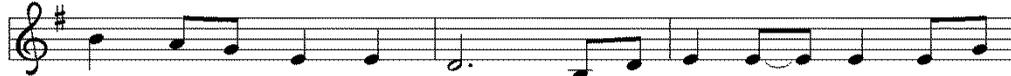
GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

The People Who Walked in Darkness

Choir

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;

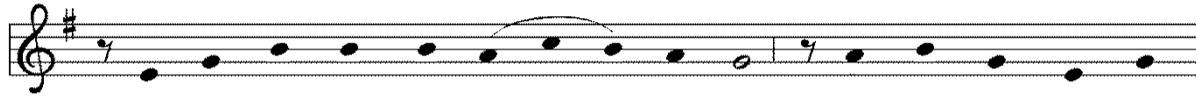
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

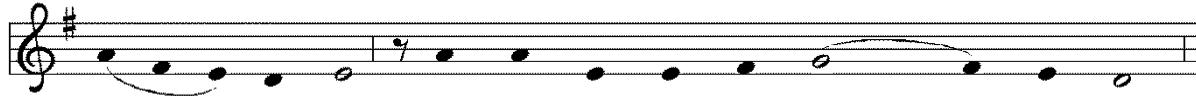
⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 4)***ELW #257**

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GOSPEL**Luke 1:39-55**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

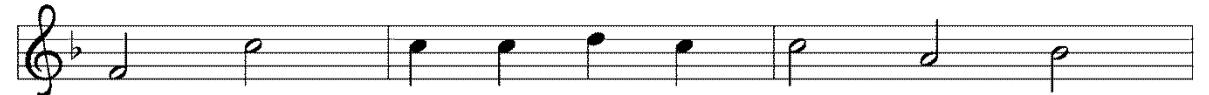
⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their

thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

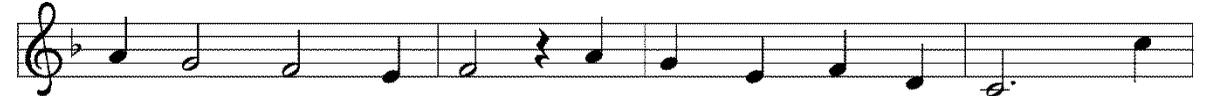
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***ELW #272**

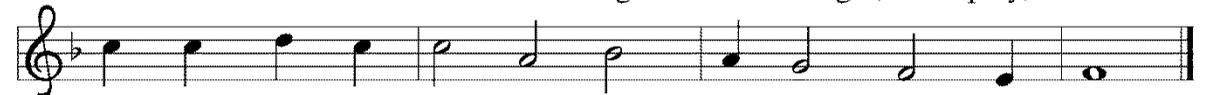
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth.

Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick (*especially*). Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Choir

OFFERING HYMN

What Feast of Love

ELW #487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **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.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

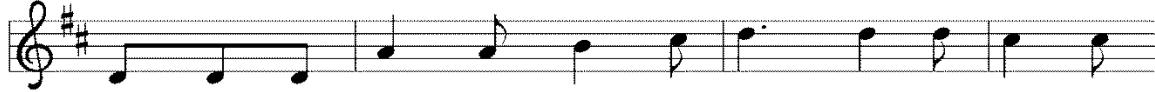
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson
Assisting: Melinda McVey McCluskey
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Ushers: Dolly Gregor & Margaret Okland

Acolytes: Kadence Henderson, Karli Helgeson
Reader: Roy Kvale
Altar Guild for December 22-30:
Gloria Kvale, Pat Thorson

The radio broadcast this morning is given in loving memory of Jim Tweed and Vince Tweed's birthday, December 22, from Doris Tweed.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3. Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2018 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2.

Readings for next week: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

Salem's Clothes Closet is open Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Donations of new socks & underwear are needed. Thank you for your help.

 Monday Mornings on Lake Street
NO MONDAY MORNING COFFEE DECEMBER 24th.

"Mosquitoes and Miracles"
Sunday, January 6th - 2:00 p.m.
Salem Sanctuary
Story teller Virginia Thomas
More details to come!

BABY FOOD JARS w/LIDS NEEDED For a 2019 VBS Project
We will be making snow globes during VBS in 2019. We need baby food jars. Please save any size (maybe not the tiny jars) and bring to Salem's Narthex (there will be a box ready to receive the jars). We will need over 100 jars. We won't be able to do this craft if we do not get enough jars, so please place them in the box in the narthex throughout the next 7 months. Thank you!

2019 YOUTH SERVICE TRIP MEETING
Saturday, January 5th at 9:30 a.m. @ Salem
Planning Meeting
This is a Breakfast Meeting so please come hungry!
We will decide which camp to attend July 21st through July 27th.

Good Gifts Barnyard Tree

This year Salem is encouraged to purchase farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts. The tree in the main entry area (by the elevator) is full of ornaments. To participate pick an ornament and take it home for your tree. Put your check (payable to Salem) for that amount in an envelope in the offering plate or the safe outside the office. Designate on the memo line of your check which animal you purchased. This is a good gift idea for hard-to-buy family members.



Salem Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday Advent Services - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sundays, December 16, 23

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - Dec. 24, 5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas - Saturday, December 29, 5:30 p.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 30, 8:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols. **One service December 30.**

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2019 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The 8:30 a.m. worship service is heard on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2.

Cost for 2019 is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE - 641.592.1771.

2019 BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

March 24, 31, April 21, 25, May 5, 12, June 9, 30, July 14, 21, 28,

Aug. 18, Sept. 1, 15, Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 22, 29

Church Dashboard for Contributions 12/17/2018

LAST SUNDAY, 12/09/18: \$7,706

Year-to-date as of 12/12/18: \$264,541 - Last year as of 12/12/17: \$270,187

DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE: -\$5,646

Attendance: Those worshipping December 15/16: 166

Any donations you would like credited for 2018 need to be received by December 31, 2018.

Thank you!

To all who have contributed to the Heating/Air Conditioning Fund to date. We have met the 25% goal needed for the grant application. The grant funding is very competitive and if we receive it, we still need to finish paying for the heating system. Your continued donations will be appreciated.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service – Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 OFFICES CLOSED

1:45 p.m. Mills Harbour Communion

2:30 p.m. LMCC Communion

5:30 p.m. Good Samaritan - Lounge

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

5:30 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols – Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 a.m. Monday Morning Coffee – Lounge

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 OFFICES CLOSED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle – Library; Ruth Circle – Faye Aamodt

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

9:30 a.m. Salem/One in Christ Service Group Breakfast – Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service - Chapel

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service

9:35 a.m. Praise Creature Choir– Choir Room; Faith Formation – Chapel; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

2:00 p.m. “Mosquitoes and Miracles”- Sanctuary

Salem Contact Information:

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