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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025 – 9:00am

OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday—9:00m Service
Preaching: Pastor John Holt
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Reader: Connor Kem
Sound: Al Skellenger
Live Stream: Brad Evenson
Acolytes: Danika White, Paisley Nickson-Wilkinson
Communion Servers: Janelle Pierce, Paisley Nickson-Wilkinson, Laura Gardner, Dianne Gardner, Danika White, Shannon Bruhns
Music Leaders: Al & Willie Skellenger & Others
Worship Coordinator: Shannon
Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson
Altar Guild for December: All Members

The Live Stream Broadcast is Given in Memory of Loved Ones From Bill & Linda Tween

Salem Contact Information:

Delane Behr, Council President 641.592.4195 Organist: Ruth 641.592.0184	Office Admin: Marci Salem Office: 641.592.1771 salem@wctatel.net

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELLS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

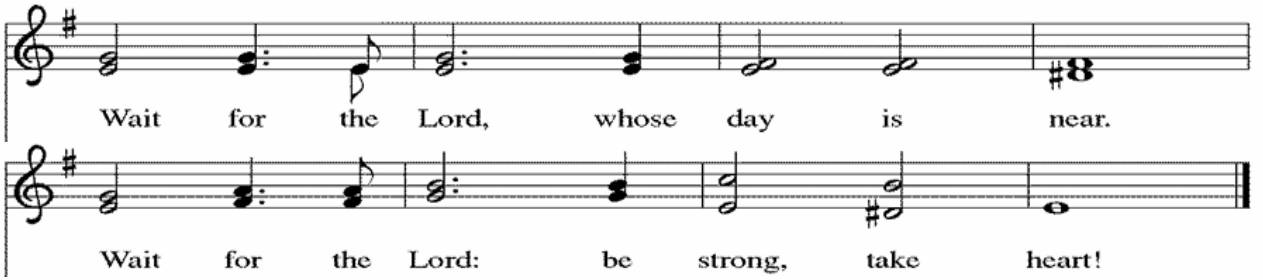
LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist

and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,

and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

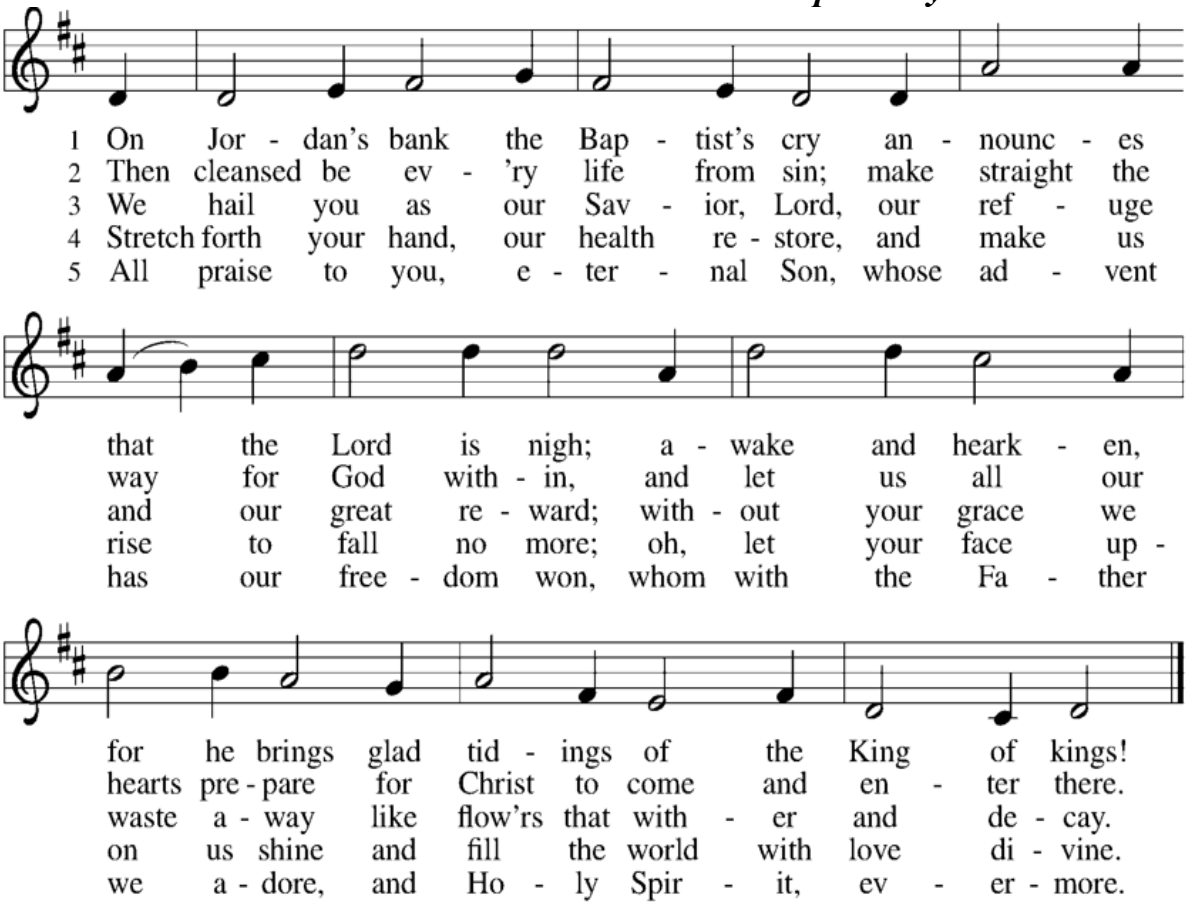
Please remain seated for the Lighting of the Advent wreath. The first two candles will be lit as we sing the advent canticle which Ruth will play one time through first, and then we will sing the canticle ***<u>three times through</u>****.*

ADVENT CANTICLE ***Wait for the Lord*** ELW #262



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.

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*
GATHERING HYMN ***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*** ELW #249



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

[1] A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
[2] The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
[3] His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
[4] but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
[5] Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
[6] The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
[7] The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
[8] The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
[9] They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
[10] On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
2 **that he may rule your people righteously**
and the poor with justice;

3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
4 **Let him defend the needy among the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
6 **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,**
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
18 **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;**
you alone do wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen.

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

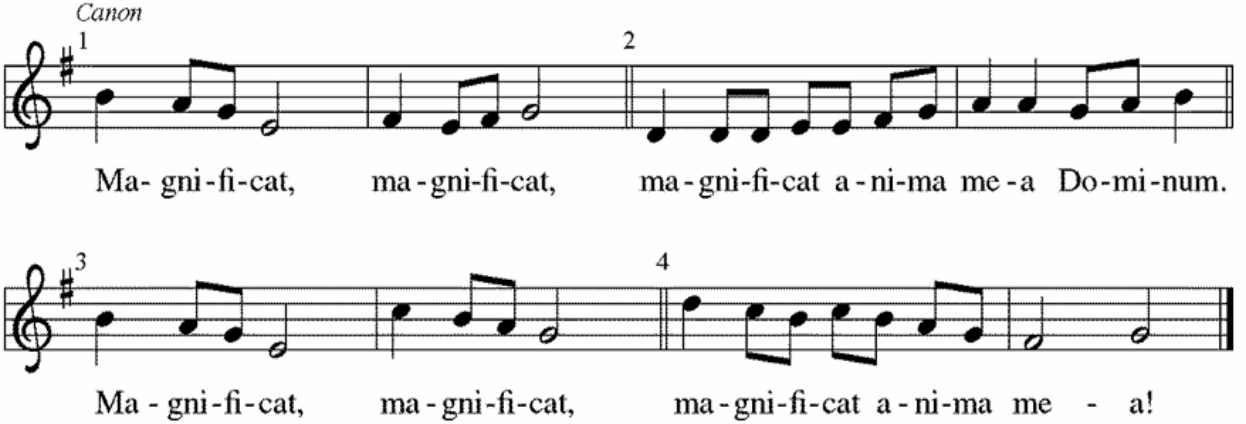
7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors 9 and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";
10 and again he says,
"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";
11 and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
12 and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit..

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

Please stand as you are able. Ruth will play the Gospel Acclamation one time through first, and then together we will sing one time through.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW #236**



GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the

one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and
his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the
region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him
in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

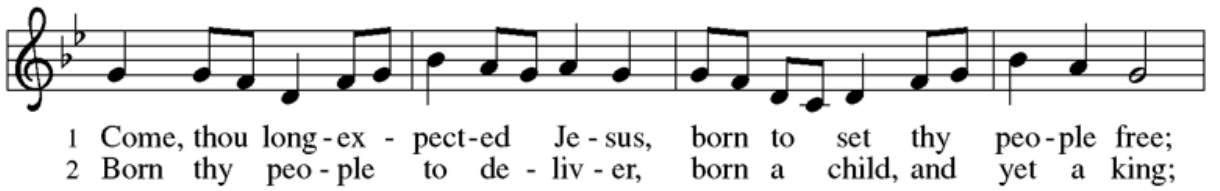
7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his
baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the
coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume
to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is
able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is
lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will
be cut down and thrown into the fire.

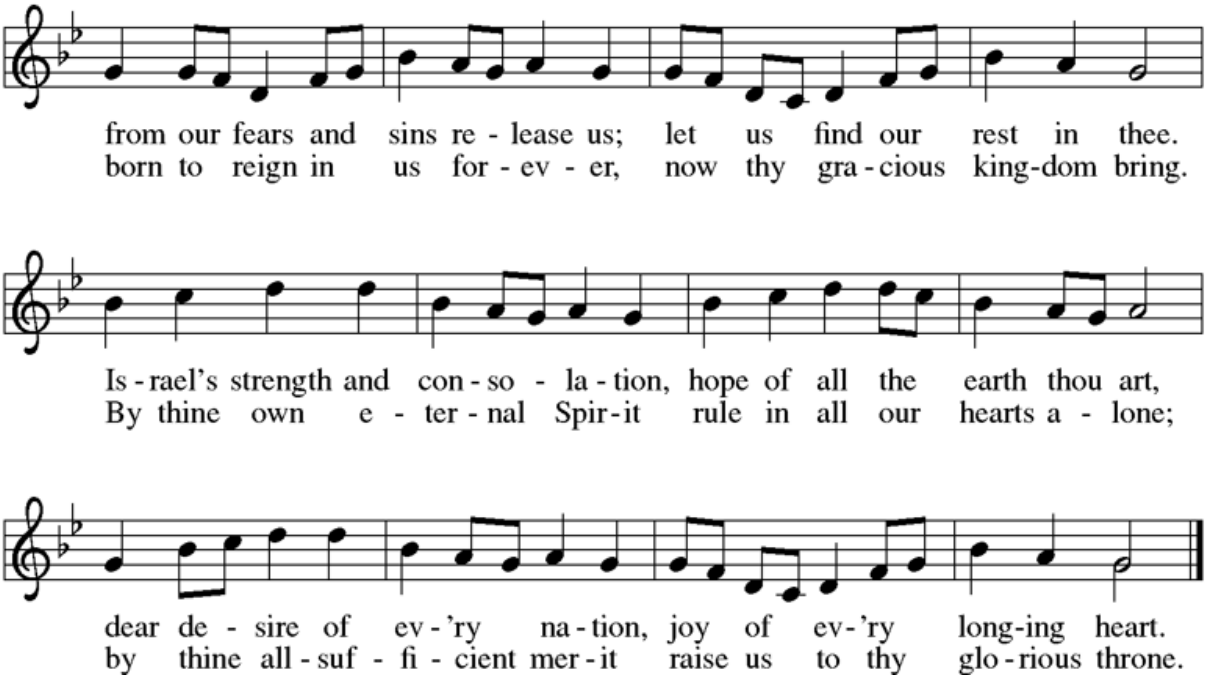
11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me
is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he
will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the
chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

*(***Please be seated.)*
SERMON

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*
HYMN OF THE DAY ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** ELW #254





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.

*(***Please be seated.)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PEACE -- The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING "What Child Is This" Brady Kurtz
Music by William Chatterton Dix
Words by Traditional English Folk Melody "Greensleeves"

OFFERING PRAYER -- Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

DISTRIBUTION

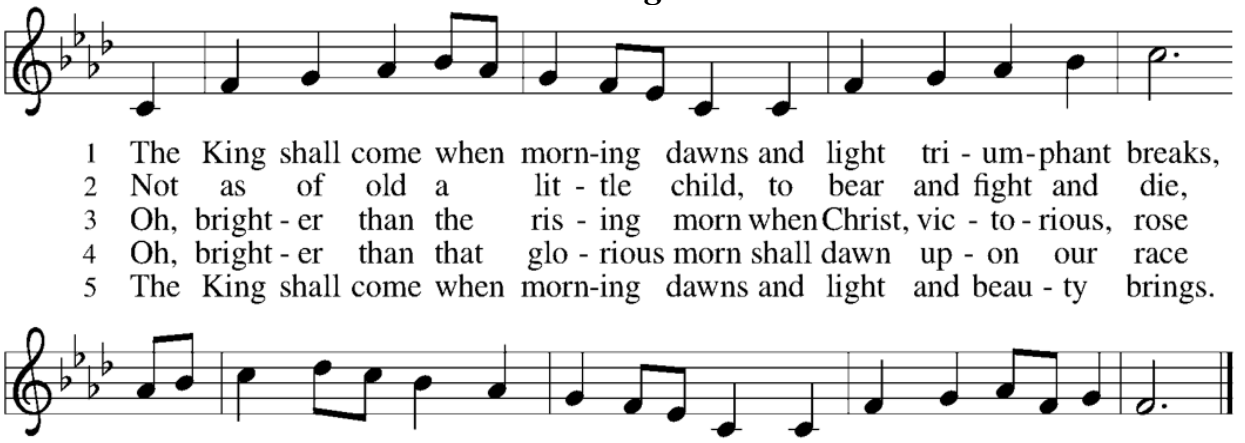
*(***Please stand as you are able.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION -- God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING -- May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ***The King Shall Come*** ELW #260



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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