

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
~ DECEMBER 10, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

“There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him”. (John 1:6-7)

O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP “Peace, Peace, Peace”** (Tune: Still, Still, Still)

Peace, peace, peace – The gift of Christ is peace.

We walk with God, our past forgiven. All in Him is life and heaven.

Peace, peace, peace – The gift of Christ is peace.

* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* **GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

* **KYRIE**

Forgive us, Lord, for times when peace was lost, and moments when we never thought to love, for times when we oppress and offend and fight for things which kill us in the end. Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins and help us live in joy that never ends.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”**

Sing we the song of Emmanuel

This the Christ who was long foretold

Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem

Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark
Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus

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* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

**C: 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 MESSAGE

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Please read responsively

¹Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at

home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 2**

Hymn #257

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh;
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide
our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

* **Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with

the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

SERMON

SERMON SONG “Prepare the Royal Highway” *Hymn #264*

Vs. 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

Vs. 2 God’s people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you:

[Refrain]

Vs. 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow down before him; their voices join your singing: ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:

[Refrain]

* **APOSTLES’ CREED**

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.

* **JOYS, SORROWS AND CONCERNS**

* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

* **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

* **OFFERING “Doxology for Advent”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MEAL

* **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

* **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.

“O Lamb of God” (tune ELW #257)

O Lamb of God you take away

The sins of the whole world, now let us pray

For peace, forgiveness, hope, joy and love

Be our protector from above.

O Lamb of God,

O Lamb of God

Grant us your peace on

Earth we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” (tune ELW #631) Hymn #254

Vs. 1 Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Vs. 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

Hymn #249

Vs. 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces
that the Lord is nigh; awake and harken,
for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Vs. 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the
way for God within, and let us all our
hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Vs. 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge
and our great reward; without your grace we
waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Vs. 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up-
on us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Vs. 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent
has our freedom won, whom with the Father
we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

* **PRAYER**

L: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim
your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen
life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **BENEDICTION**

* **SENDING SONG “Soon and Very Soon”** *Hymn #439*

Vs. 1 Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs. 2 No more cryin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
No more cryin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
No more cryin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs. 3 No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King
Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs.4 Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King
Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

C: Thanks be to God.

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** Please stand if you are able.*

Sunday School News!

Everyone is invited join our Sunday School students for worship on December 17th as they lead us in worship. After the service, the students will be having a Market For World Hunger in the family room! So please plan to bring some extra money to worship that day to support our littlest Saints in their efforts to help people who don't have enough food to eat. All money from the sale will go into the World Hunger Milk Can.

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sundays at Salem

Sunday School – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am

Rev. John Ansell

4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

218-727-1357

Email – salemhermantown@gmail.com

Web – www.slecduluth.org

Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church

“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us today. Communion is open to all who believe. ***If you need gluten-free bread or prefer grape juice, please let the servers know.*** As you receive the bread for Communion, please hold your hands out. *Notify the usher if you want to be served in the pew.*

Please fill out a communion card located in the pew rack so we can get to know you better. If you have any other questions, please ask the pastor or any other members.

Coffee Servers this morning: Prison Ministry Team

Cookies for St. Louis County Jail

Kathryn Bell, Chaplain at St. Louis County Jail has requested donations of homemade cookies for their Christmas celebration on December 15. If you are able to bake cookies, bring them to worship with you on Sunday, December 10 or drop them off at the church office (9-1) on Tuesday December 12. **Please no nuts or coconut due to possible allergies!**

Superior Singers 2023 Christmas concert

"Christmas and all that Jazz!"

(jazz vocal renditions of all your favorite Christmas songs!)

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm

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Salem Lutheran Church

Mitten Drive

Bring your mittens/gloves to church and hang them on the mitten tree. All mittens/gloves will be sent to Piedmont Elementary School. This collection will continue through the winter!

This Week a Salem

TODAY, SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday School.....	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship	11:00 am
Confirmation	11:00 am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Day Care	6:00 am
Church Council	6:30 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Day Care	6:00 am
Superior Singers Holiday Concert.....	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

Day Care	6:00 am
Quilters	9:30 am

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

Day Care	6:00 am
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

Day Care	6:00 am
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NEXT SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday School.....	9:00 am
Sunday School Led Worship.....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship & World Market.....	11:00 am

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