

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
~ DECEMBER 14, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

“Lord, my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people – a light to bring light to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32)

Dear God, let the joyous light of Jesus shine in our lives and proclaim the Good Tidings to everyone we meet. Amen.

\* **Song “Peace, Peace, Peace” Vs. 3 (Tune: Still, Still, Still)**

Joy, joy, joy – We praise You, Christ, with joy!

Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure. Highest calling, deepest pleasure!

Joy, joy, joy – We praise You, Christ, with Joy!

\* **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 joy was lost, and moments when we never thought to laugh, for times when we obsess and despair, and all forget your steadfast love and care. 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

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

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,  
***C: and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, or 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 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; <sup>8</sup>the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>9</sup>A highway shall be there, <sup>10</sup>and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, <sup>11</sup>but it shall be for God's people; <sup>12</sup>no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>13</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>14</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm: 146:5-10**

*Please read responsively*

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**<sup>8</sup>the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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: Matthew 11:2-11**  
P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
**C: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

\* **Matthew 11:2-11**  
<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah<sup>[a]</sup> was doing, he sent word  
by his<sup>[b]</sup> disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are  
we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what  
you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with  
a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the  
poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes  
no offense at me.”  
<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:  
“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the  
wind? <sup>8</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? Someone<sup>[c]</sup> dressed in soft  
robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What,  
then, did you go out to see? A prophet?<sup>[d]</sup> Yes, I tell you, and more than a  
prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my  
messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>“Truly  
I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than  
John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than  
he. The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

#### **SERMON**

#### **SERMON SONG “*Joy Has Dawned*”**

Vs. 1 Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation; God's  
salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation. Not with fanfares from  
above, not with scenes of glory, but a humble gift of love: Jesus, born of  
Mary.

Vs. 2 Sounds of wonder fill the sky, with the songs of angels, as the  
mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in

place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast,  
vuln'rable and helpless.

Vs.3 Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory; gifts of men  
from distant lands prophesy the story. Gold, a King is born today;  
incense, God is with us; myrrh, his death will make a way; and by his  
blood he'll win us.

Vs. 4 Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom; reconciling God  
and man— Christ, our mighty Champion! What a Savior, what a Friend,  
what a glorious myst'ry: once a Babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of  
hist'ry.

#### \* **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 bur ied; 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**

P: Lord, 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 Hymn #257 “O Come, O, Come Emmanuel)

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**

***“You are the Light of the World”***

You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are the light of the world  
You are a city on a hill  
You are a city on a hill  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are a city on a hill  
You are a candle in the dark  
You are a candle in the dark  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are a candle in the dark  
You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are the light of the world

***“Let There Be Peace on Earth”***

Vs. 1 Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Father  
Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony

Vs. 2 Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now  
With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
In peace eternally



Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

\* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

\* **PRAYER**

P: 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 “Days Of Elijah”**

Vs. 1 These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord.  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant, Moses,  
Righteousness being restored.  
And though these are days  
Of great trials,  
Of famine and darkness and sword,  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

**Chorus:** ***Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun,  
At the trumpet call.  
So lift your voice,  
It's the year of Jubilee;  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes.***

Vs. 2 And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh.  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant, David,  
Rebuilding a temple of praise.  
And these are the days of the harvest,  
The fields are as white in the world;  
And we are the laborers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord. **Chorus (2x)**

**Chorus:** ***Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun,  
At the trumpet call.  
So lift your voice,  
It's the year of Jubilee;  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes.***

**Bridge** There is no god like Jehovah.  
There is no god like Jehovah.  
There is no god like Jehovah.  
There is no god like Jehovah. Repeat 4x **Chorus 2x**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

**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.*



December 21<sup>st</sup> everyone is invited to join our Sunday School students for worship as they lead us in worship. After the service the students will be having a World Market, the kids create 'wares' to sell and money goes toward mission projects.

**This Week a Salem**

**TODAY, SUNDAY, December 14, 2025**

Youth Education .....	9:00 am
Worship .....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship .....	11:00 am
Cub Scouts .....	4:00 pm

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
----------------	---------

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
Thrive! Support Group .....	6:00 pm
Church Council .....	6:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025**

***January Newsletter Articles Due!***

Day Care .....	6:00 am
Quilters .....	9:30 am
Trillium Works! Collective .....	3-4:30 pm
The Chosen .....	6:30 pm

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
----------------	---------

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
----------------	---------

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 21, 2024**

Youth Education .....	9:00 am
Worship by Sunday School .....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship .....	11:00 am
Prison Ministry .....	12:00 pm
Cub Scouts .....	4:00 pm

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Sundays at Salem

Youth Education – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am

Coffee Fellowship

**Rev. John Ansell**

**4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811  
218-727-1357**

**Email – salemhermantown@gmail.com**

**Web – [www.slecduluth.org](http://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.”***