

December 6-7, 2025

Second Sunday in Advent

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

# The Judge



**Salem** Lutheran

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)



## **Second Sunday in Advent**

*Imminent Arrival  
of the Judge*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Savior Jesus, mighty God, when you return to this world it will be in power and glory. Strengthen my faith and trust in your promises, that my hope in you may never fail. Bless me this week in faith. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. We can feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Sunday Worship Leader: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen

Men's Choir Director: Steve Angus

Piano: Paige Reiners, Madison Boerner

### ***(Sunday) Pre-Service Handbells***

***Be Thou My Vision***

*by Sandra Eithun*

***Awake My Heart With Gladness***

*by John Behnke*

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org) + 651-439-7831

[church@salemlutheran.org](mailto:church@salemlutheran.org)

# Order of Worship

*CW Hymnal, Setting Three*



Minister: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history.  
He came into a world of sin and death.

**Congregation: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

**C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

## Hymn: Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312 sts. 1, 3-4



1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace,” so  
3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert  
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing  
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem  
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their  
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
now o’er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver.”  
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Please stand.

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

C: Amen.

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins the vocal melody with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to'. The third staff continues with 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,'. The fourth staff continues with 'and peace to his peo - ple on earth.'. The fifth staff continues with 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and'. The sixth staff continues with 'Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we'. The seventh staff continues with 'we give you thanks, we'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

*Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— <sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm of the Day: Remember Your Mercy, O LORD** Psalm 130B

*The Church sings Psalm 130 in services that emphasize repentance and forgiveness through faith in Jesus.*

*On Sunday, the Men's Chorus will sing the first refrain and the verses. The congregation may join in the "Glory Be" and the remaining refrains.*

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;  
Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive  
to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve  
you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,  
and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel  
from / all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

*God's people face the coming judgement with hope, not fear.*

<sup>4</sup>For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup>May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup>and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name.”

<sup>10</sup>Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**(Sunday) Men's Chorus Anthem**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

Arr. by Philip Kern

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God, our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all ye within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 22:20



### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.  
And all people will see God's salvation. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

*God's people face the coming judgement with hope, not fear.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea  
<sup>2</sup>and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is he  
who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup>John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around  
his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from  
Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their  
sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where  
he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to

flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,  
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 up to fall no more; O make your face on  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

*“It’s Time for a Turnaround”*

- 1) Open your eyes
- 2) Hear God’s direction
- 3) Take the new path

Please stand after the sermon.

**THANKSGIVING**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated.

**Offering**



Our members give offerings to support God’s work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren’t expected to.



We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

**Prayer of the Church**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 318



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with  
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."  
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

## WELS Connection & Snow Shoveling Fundraiser

## Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship  
Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

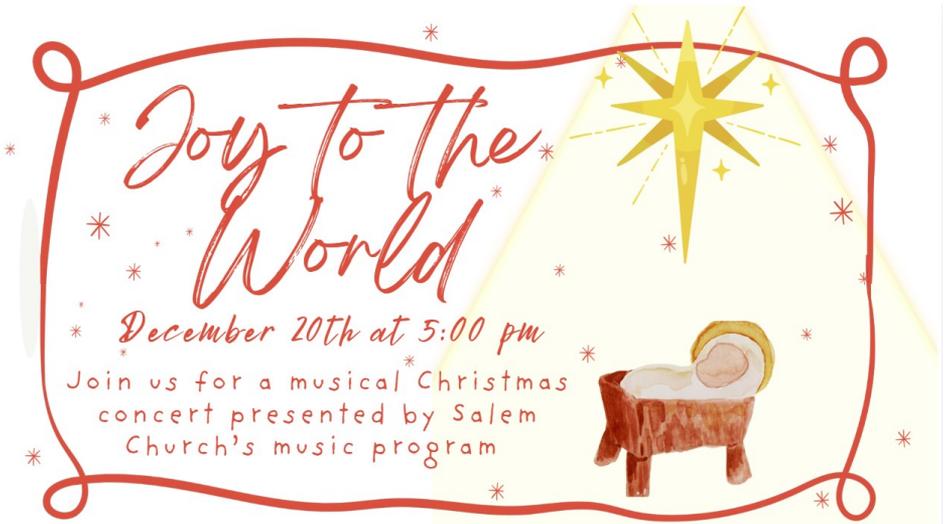
Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

Bible Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-11, Matthew 11:2-11

Hymns: 322, 324, 310, 672, 519



# Christmas Worship Schedule



## **Sundays in Advent—Imminent Arrival**

November 30th— Imminent Arrival of the One who Calls

December 7th—Imminent Arrival of the Judge

December 14th—Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

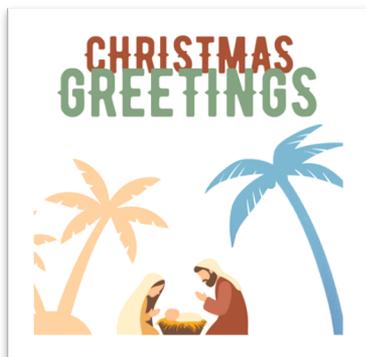
December 21st—Imminent Arrival of My Lord and God

## **Wednesdays in Advent – Salem School**

December 10th (4pm)

December 17th (4pm)

*(Meals provided after each service.)*



## **Christmas Celebration – Christ the Savior is Born!**



Wednesday, December 24th (3 & 5pm)—  
Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

Thursday, December 25th (10am)—  
Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

Sunday, December 28th (normal service times)  
Son of God

Sunday, January 4th (normal service times)  
Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

**LAST  
CHANCE**



**SALEM LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

While you shop, wrap presents, or just take a long nap, we'll share the true joy of Christmas with your children through songs, crafts, and activities.

**DEC 13, 2025**

9:00 - 12:00 PM  
14940 62nd St,  
Stillwater, MN

▲ Kids ages 3yr to 6th grade

▲ Cookie decorating social to follow - for the whole family

▲ Share the joy of Jesus with your children

**Register Soon!**

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

