

## **SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**December 12, 2021  
Third Sunday of Advent  
10:00AM Worship Service**

*Vision Statement: Centered on the Holy Bible,  
we will continue to be a Christ-filled church  
serving others near and far.*

**GATHERING  
PRELUDE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*Indicates those able to please stand

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS                    LBW P.56**

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

**C Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are in bondage 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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

**\*OPENING HYMN    WOV 639 – *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah***

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

LBW P.57

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

LBW P.57-58

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

LBW P.58-59

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father; We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**\*SALUTATION**

BW P.62

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray

**C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people. Lord God, 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, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment, he

has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. <sup>16</sup>On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." <sup>18</sup>"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. <sup>19</sup>At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

### **Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

**<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

**<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

### **SECOND LESSON PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**\*ALLELUIA VERSE**

LBW P.63

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:7-18

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</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>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." <sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with<sup>[a]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

**C Praise to you O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***LBW 35 – Hark the Glad Sound***

**\*Nicene Creed**

LBW P. 64

**C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

LBW P.65-66

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

(A brief silence.)

Lord God,        (*Pastor will say prayers*)        Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, (*Pastor will say a prayer*)        through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us come together and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW P.76

**C 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**

## OFFERING

\***OFFERTORY**      *Create in Me*      LBW P.75

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## \*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN      *Gold 229 – How Sweet the Sound of Jesus Name***

\***BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL**      LBW P.76

P May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

**A Amen!**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**A Thanks be to God!**

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## **WELCOME TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We are glad that you came to be with us today! There's a place for everyone here at Salem Lutheran Church. We are a family church that meets you right where you are. No matter where that may be. You may sign our guest book in entry way. If you are searching for a church home, we ask you to prayerfully consider Salem Lutheran.