

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve
7:00 pm 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

*Indicates those able to please stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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** LBW 59 – *When Christmas Morn is Dawning*

***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.60-61

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to 'God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

LBW P. 62

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the rightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

***ALLELUIA VERSE**

LBW P.62

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

P The Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in

Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW 44 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

****Nicene Creed***

LBW P.64

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

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,

C hear our prayer.

Gracious God, *(Pastor will say a prayer)*

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**

Let the Vineyards

LBW P.66

C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

LBW P. 68

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

LBW P.68

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 thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**

LBW P.69

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

LBW P.70

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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 bloodshed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW P.71

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

THE AGNUS DEI

LBW P.72

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

THANK THE LORD...

LBW P.72

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

CLOSING HYMN

LBW 39 – Joy to the World

***BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL**

LBW P.74

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!

LBW 65 – Silent Night, Holy Night

Merry Christmas and Blessings to You All....Let Christ Enter and Remain

CCLI License #11401967 & #20373835

About communion: We welcome all to the Lord's table who believe Jesus' words: "given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of sin" to receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. For where there is forgiveness of sin there is also life and salvation. Those not yet communing may come forward to receive a blessing.

Trays contain both wine (darker) and grape juice (lighter). Gluten free wafers are available. Please let Pastor know if you would like to have gluten free wafers.

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.