

Salem Lutheran Church

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NOVEMBER 28th, 2021 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper

GATHERING & WELCOME

ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle for Messiah

ELW 240 vs 1

The Prophet

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: Yiddish folk tune

Tune Name: Tif in veldele

Reported to OneLicense Song # 85955

R *Send out your light and your truth, O Lord; let them be our guide.*

C **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, "Let there be light!"**

R *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

C **Did not our hearts burn within us while he spoke to us and opened the Scriptures for us?**

R *"Let the prophet who has my word speak my word faithfully," says the Lord. "Is not my word a fire?"*

C **One candle is burning--through darkness shines light,
As prophets were yearning for God's holy might.
To people in darkness came promises new--
The promise of Jesus is faithful and true.**

P *The Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you*

C **And also with you.**

The Prophecy Candle

R *Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.*

C **Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care**

As for your arrival your people prepare.

The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,

That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-18

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 3:1-6

A prophet even greater than Moses

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all God's house." Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the first chapter
Glory to you, O Lord

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her

name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

The Holy Gospel given to you. **Praise to you, O Christ**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244 1 & 4

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption

that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

Music: Swedish folk tune

Tune Name: Haf trones lampa färdig

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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Let your lamps be lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return. **Thanks be to God.**

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

We give thanks to Salem Choir and Cathy Hoefler for leading us in music!

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the honor and glory of God by the Whitacres.

Last Week's Altar Flowers given to the glory of God in celebration of Gina and Jeff's anniversary by Carolyn and Bud Ruth.

Coffee Hour Desserts Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Thank you for blessing the fellowship table with your special treats!

Our Daily Bread ~ Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and for your generosity. Next casserole pick up is Monday, January 10, 2021.

Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Eve are ready for purchased. Each plant is \$7.50. Please see Mike Whitacre.

The Christmas Tree decorated with gift tags is in the Narthex. Each adopted family has provided their wishes and you can stop by the tree beginning this Sunday to select a tag or two. Thank you for your kindness.

Salem's Christmas Pageant and Brunch December 12th. The brunch will be set up in the Narthex and everyone is invited to move to the Sanctuary pews to enjoy conversation and culinary delights by Salem's cooks. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex as well or you can see Lynn Cox.

Mason Dixon Food Pantry ~ Thank you for donating non-perishable food items for folks Sarah Keller takes the items to Mason Dixon at least once a month. The collection bin is located under the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you, Sarah, for delivering the food items!

Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries? Check out Salem's website

Want to spread encouragement? Let's send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside
C/O Charles Phoebus
1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 219A
Belcamp, MD 21017

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: David Storf, Carter's family, The family and friends of Don Smith, Richard Newsome, Raymond McCue, Caitlin Taylor, Darla Lynch, Alcoe Durastanti, Robet Vazquez, Erika Weldon, Paul Foutz, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, Judy Newsome, baby Diana, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Georgia Coleman, Charlie Phoebus, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Brenda Baker, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Donna Miller, Lisa Barwick, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arian, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.

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