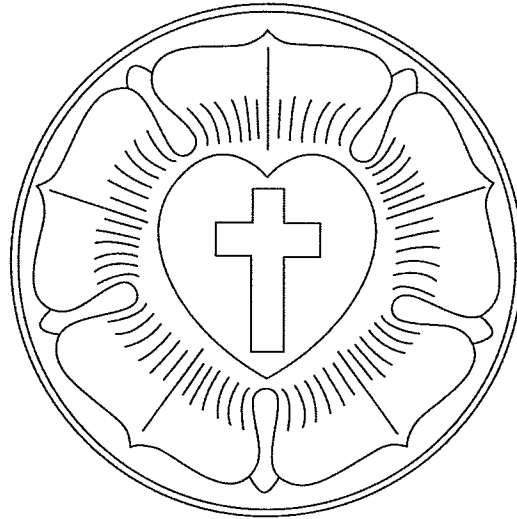


# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Our Mission Statement

*“A Fellowship of Believers in Jesus Christ dedicated to proclaiming God’s Love to ALL through Word and Deed.”*



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**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**December 31, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

A nursery is available for your use if the need arises.  
It is located in the front hallway just off of the lobby.

- P for Pastor's part of the Liturgy  
C for Congregation's part of the Liturgy  
\* Those who are able, are asked to stand.  
+ A time one may use the sign of the cross.

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Book)  
WOV = With One Voice (Blue Book)

## GATHERING

**THE FIRST PRELUDE** "He is Born" Whitworth

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE SECOND PRELUDE** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Whitworth

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** **WOV P. 10**

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 in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept 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.

\* **THE GATHERING HYMN** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" **LBW # 50**  
(Green book)

\* **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING** **WOV P. 28**

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.

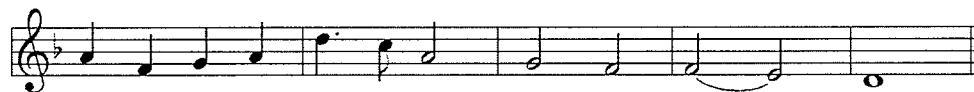
\* **THE KYRIE** **WOV P. 28**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:     Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son:     Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:     Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

1    Angels we have heard on high,  
      sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
      and the mountains in reply,  
      echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

      Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
      gloria in excelsis Deo.

2    Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
      Why your joyous strains prolong?  
      What the gladsome tidings be  
      which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

\* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P    The Lord be with you.  
C    **And also with you.**

P    Let us pray  
      Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity  
      of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came  
      to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
      God, now and forever.

C    **Amen**

**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
      my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
      he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
      and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (ESV)

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm will be read responsively*

**PSALM: Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> **sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;**  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> **Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**  
<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

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

**\* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Celtic Alleluia” WOV # 613**



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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**\* GOSPEL**

**P THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**



<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

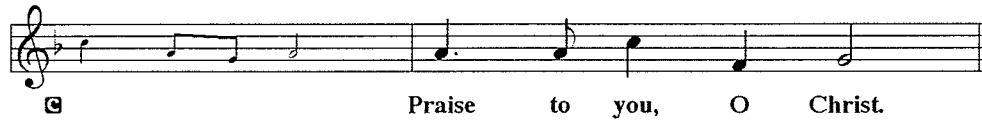
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (ESV)

P The Gospel of the Lord.



### THE SERMON

\* **THE HYMN OF THE DAY** "Holy Child within the Manger" **WOV # 638**  
(Blue book)

\* **THE NICENE CREED** **WOV P. 32**

**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

\* THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

\* THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C And also with you.

THE ORGAN OFFERTORY "He Shall Feed His Flock" Handel/Whitworth

\* THE OFFERTORY "Let the vineyards" WO V P. 35

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**\* THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**LBW P. 87**

**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.

**MEAL**

**\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**LBW P. 88**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**\* THE PREFACE**

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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

WOV P. 36

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\* THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;  
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.  
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will  
and accomplished our salvation.

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 blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving Passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,  
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought, but as we are able;  
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,  
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;  
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son  
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,  
and have our portion with all your saints.  
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW P. 91

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
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**

\* FRACTION

\* THE COMMUNION CANTICLE "Lamb of God" WOVS P. 39



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Please note: receiving in one kind (only the body or only the blood) is a full Holy Communion.*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"What Child Is This"

LBW # 40

"The First Noel"

LBW # 56

### \* THE COMMUNION BLESSING

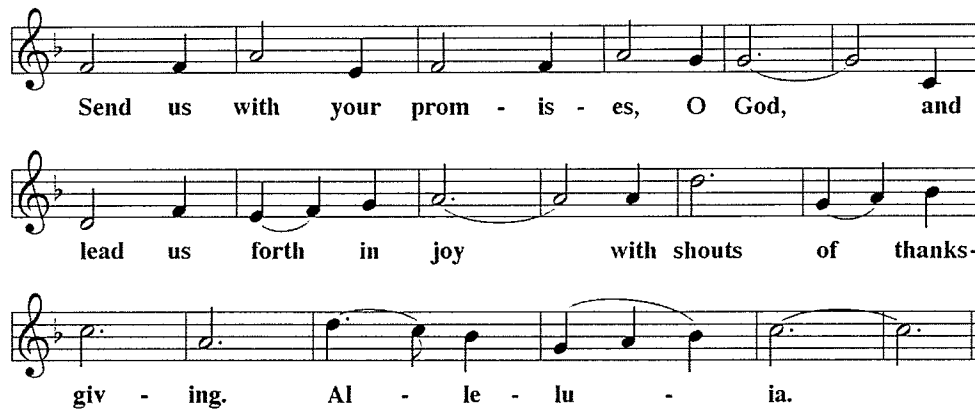
WOV P. 40

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

### \* THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Thankful hearts" WOV P. 40

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\* THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** **LBW P. 94**

**P** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**SENDING**

**\* THE BENEDICTION** **LBW P. 95**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen** *(Sing in a three fold Amen)*

**\* THE CLOSING HYMN** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” **LBW # 55**  
(Green book)

**\* THE DISMISSAL** **LBW P. 74**

**P** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\* POSTLUDE** “Joyous Christmas Bells” **Broughton**

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Greeter	Mark and Connie Ditzler
Acolyte	Abby Goodman
Usher	Faith Shiffer
Lector	Lisa or Sam Borry
Communion Assistant	Jerry Ulrich
Altar care set up	Eddie Sweigart
clean up	Mary Binder and Connie Ditzler

Today	8:30 AM	Choir
	9:00 AM	Bible study
Monday	10:00 AM	Holy Name of Jesus
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Comforter Knotting MP
Thursday	7:00 PM	Holy Communion
Saturday	10:00 AM	Epiphany service

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 Website: [salemephata.org](http://salemephata.org)  
 Theresa C. Lee, Organist  
 Michael Frymyer, Sexton  
 Jean Wilhelm, Secretary

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM—12:30 PM