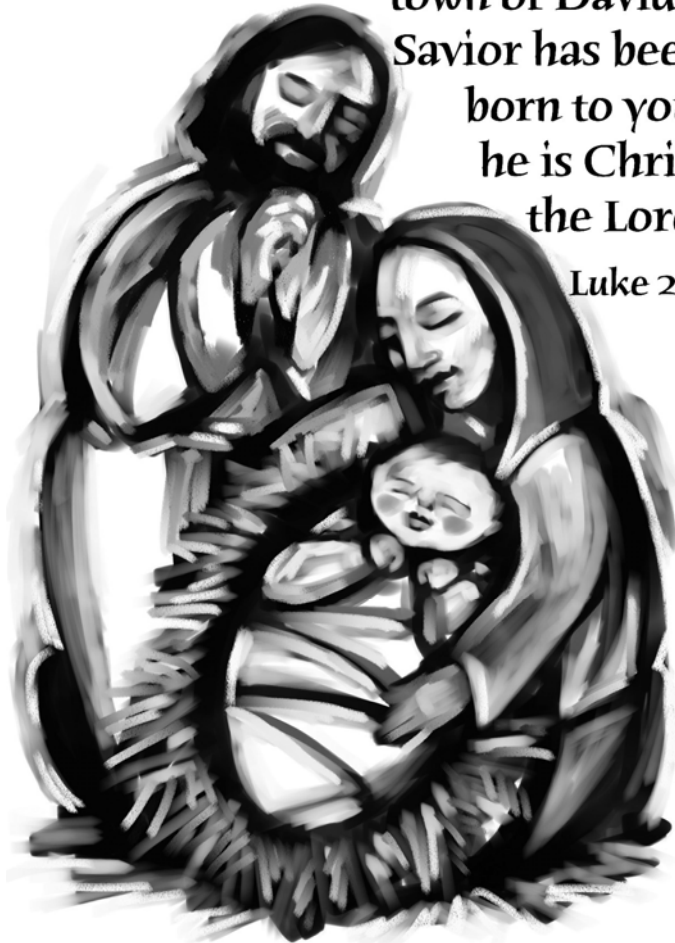


Today in the
town of David a
Savior has been
born to you;
he is Christ
the Lord.

Luke 2:11



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 Salem Church Road, Mt. Sidney, VA 24467

Telephone 540 234-8161

People of Salem, Ministers

The Rev. Derek Boggs, 540-416-8161

Choir Director: Mrs. Debbie Mongold

Organist: Aaron Looney

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ~ CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00 PM ~ DECEMBER 24, 2019

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image; long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom; eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges; a thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

*GATHERING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* 283

*GREETING

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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 brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL PROCESSION: *Once in Royal David's City*

Verses 1 & 2 before Gospel reading, verses 3 & 4 after.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

*GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 270**

***NICENE CREED**

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

A Let us pray for the church, the earth, and all those in need, in the name of the one who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for all who gather tonight around the manger, and for all those who still long for good news of great joy in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

A Let us give thanks for the lives of the saints who now feast at the heavenly table. Keep us faithful as we await Christ's coming in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

P O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son....

—John 3:16a

***PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS: *What Child is This* 296**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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**

*DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* 276**

*THANKSGIVING

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son... Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

C **Amen**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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**



During Holy Communion all are welcome to receive the gift of God's grace. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Grape juice is provided for those who cannot have wine. If desired, you may receive a blessing instead of the elements by simply folding your hands instead of opening them.

COMMUNION SONG:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear 282

COMMUNION SONG:

Angels We Have Heard On High 289

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

C Amen

***PRAYER**

A Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***SERVICE OF LIGHT**

The ushers will distribute the light. Please light your candle from the lit candle of the person beside you.

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C **and day is almost over.**

P Let your light scatter the darkness,

C **and illumine your church.**

CANDLELIGHT HYMN: *Silent Night, Holy Night! 281

***BLESSING**

May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

We extinguish our candles as the lights return.

SENDING HYMN: *Joy to the World 267

A Go in peace. Share the good news!

C Thanks be to God!

TODAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS

USHERS: Captain: Captain- Noel Thomas

Lucy Dennison, Brooke Campbell, Beverley Wise

Alternate: Keith Robertson

ASSISTING MINISTER: Hank Kowalla

GREETERS: Doug and Sherry Ocheltree

READER: Vickie Crawford

ACOLYTE: Riley Kent

CRUCIFER: Janice Converse

NURSERY:

SOUND: Leon Sheets FLOWERS: Brooke Campbell

BREAD: Helen Wright LINENS: Dianne Chafin

COMMUNION PREPARERS: Shannon Chafin and Brooke Campbell

SERVER: Charlie Dennison ASSISTANT: Keith Robertson

ALTERNATES: Donna Alexander – Tim Behler

ATTENDANTS: Janice Converse, alternate\

Merry Christmas!



HAPPY, New Year!

May God grant you peace and joy
in the year 2020 and always.