



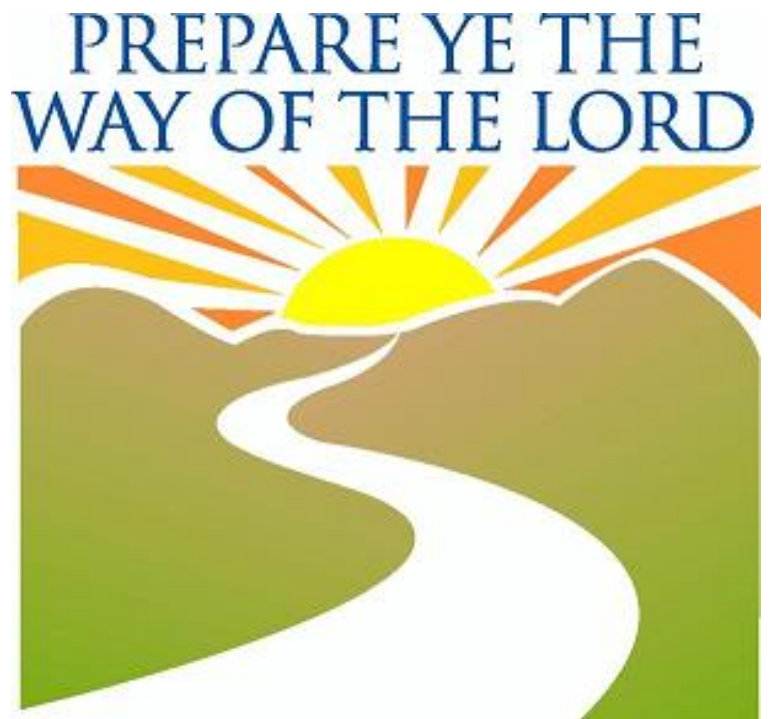
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*2nd Sunday
in Advent*

*December 5,
2021
9:30 AM*



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Gathering

Welcome!

Council has decided to move worship back indoors as the weather is growing cooler. It was also decided that if you are fully vaccinated, a mask is recommended but not mandatory inside. If you are immune-compromised and fully vaccinated, a mask is strongly recommended inside. If you are not fully vaccinated, a mask must be worn inside. **Although Council voted to not require masks, Pastor Marjo asks that you please wear one.** **Despite the fact that she was vaccinated just 6 months ago, is younger than most of the congregation, in excellent health, and is pretty cautious about wearing her mask, she ended up with a breakthrough infection and was sick for 12 days. Although the vaccine kept her from being seriously ill, she could have easily transmitted the virus to someone who was not vaccinated and that person could have ended up being hospitalized or even dying. Thank God that did not happen. Soft singing of hymns will be permitted BUT PLEASE SING ONLY IF YOU ARE WEARING A MASK.** While we know not everyone will be happy with this decision, please understand that whether it's about indoors vs. outdoors, masks vs. no masks, singing vs. no singing, there is simply no way we can please everyone. As Christians, however, it is our call to put aside our own preferences and focus not on our own desires, but on what God asks of us – which is to provide a place where even the most vulnerable in our midst feel safe. We have too many attendees with comorbidities and too many who are in contact with unvaccinated grandchildren to be less than cautious. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Flowers this morning are given by Nancy Headford in memory of her brother Stuart Headford. “Happy Heavenly Birthday. I love and miss you.”

On Tuesday at 7:00 pm on zoom there will be a worship planning meeting for our Christmas Eve service. While Covid protocols will still be in place and may be more stringent as we expect visitors who may not be vaccinated, we will be singing carols, so please have a list of your favorites ready.

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, immediately following the 9:30 service. Accommodations will be made for ZOOM attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the sale of the church building and property. Details to follow.

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men but open to ALL, will be held Saturday **December 11th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend! Volunteers to help prepare breakfast welcome to come at 7:00 am. Thanks!

Next Sunday, December 12th, at 4 pm you are invited to join Pastor Steven Wilco and the pastors & lay leaders of the Southern CT Conference of the New England Synod for a meeting on zoom as we brainstorm how we might “Collaborate, for Christ’s sake”. Link is on our calendar.

GATHERING MUSIC

But Who May Abide + For He Is Like A Refiner's Fire + And He Shall Purify

Bass Recitative—Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts:

Yet once, a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple,

even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in:

Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Alto Air—Malachi 3:2

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?

For He is like a refiner's fire.

Chorus—Malachi 3:3

And He shall purify the sons of Levi,

that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Text and Music from "Messiah" by George Frederic Handel)

Performance # 1 by Trinity Wall Street Choir and Trinity Baroque Orchestra

Julian Wachner, music director and conductor, 12/24/ 2017

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JozORpK4lyY> [6:43]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 249)

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Text: based on Numbers 6:25, Job 14:1-2, Isaiah 40:3, 7, Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:2-6,

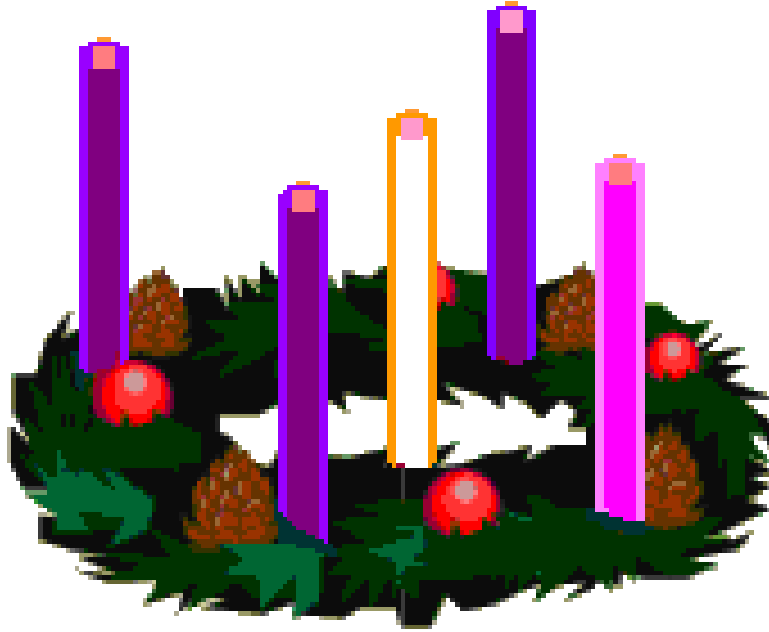
Luke 3:1-6 by Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite; Meter L M

Music: PUER NOBIS European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE:
HOPE – PEACE – LOVE – JOY – CHRIST



THE ADVENT WREATH

The wreath is of course a circle - reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God.

Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity - but also of life.

Holly is sometimes used instead of - or with - the evergreen.

The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

The red berries remind us of his blood.

*There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them –
causing them to be red ever since.*

Christ is, of course, the light of the world – hence the candles.

Our candle lighting ceremony today copyright is by the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild 2003

The following contains a litany for each Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve.

"A Candle Is Burning" is a new song by Sandra Dean (1986)

and is found in VOICES UNITED, the new hymn book of the United Church of Canada.

The tune is "Away in A Manger".

If you use this song in worship, please acknowledge authorship and date.

The words are reproduced here with permission.

Sandra lives in Ottawa, Canada and is Director of Music at Southminster United Church.

She is delighted to share the song with you.

YEAR C – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – PEACE

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING *Please be seated.*

Pastor:

Today is the second Sunday of Advent
Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the Candle of Hope.
We light it again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem,
will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

(Light the 1st candle.)

Leader:

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace.
Peace is a word that we hear a lot.
It is one of the things that we hope for.
Christ brought peace when he first came to us
and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

Pastor:

The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace".
When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace makers.
He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God.

Leader:

We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace
and that through him peace is found.

(Light the 2nd candle.)

Leader:

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place.
As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Pastor:

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*
Thank you God for the peace you give us.
We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again,
that you would remain present with us.
Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word,
and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other.
We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem **Amen**

ADVENT SONG

“A Candle Is Burning”

Sandra Dean (1986)

(Tune: “Away in a Manger” by James Murray, 1887)

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**



Word

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our parents Abraham and Sarah:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *You may stand if you so desire.*

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
of Sarah, Rebekkah and Rachel,
We believe in the God of Miriam and Ruth, of Deborah and Esther.
of Moses and David, of Elijah and Isaiah.**

**We believe in Jesus, the incarnate God,
who visited us at Bethlehem, who lived with us in Galilee, who died for us at Calvary,
and who exploded the power of death on Easter morning.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who is the Spirit of God among us,
and is the Spirit of Christ within us.**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

**We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting,
let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming.
Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching,
that their words and our lives witness to your grace.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches of Greater
Bridgeport's Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building
program, and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays last week
and this week: Bruce Tomasko, Sue Chrien, Elijah Caragol, Ryan Lansing, Barbara Howard,
Dale Danowski, and Ashley Baronavski.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered.
Provide them with shelter and care,
and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses
to work on behalf of immigrants, the imprisoned, those living in poverty, all who are oppressed,
and those who have lost family members and friends.

Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer.
Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion
to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill,
especially Barbara, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Steve, Sue,
the families and friends of Scott Blomquist and Kenneth Johnson, & all we name in our hearts.
Grant them healing and wholeness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received.

Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways.

Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered.
Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**Give us the confidence to cheerfully give
our tithes and offerings of time, talent and treasure to your work in this place,
trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs.
We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen**

OFFERING INVITATION

Please be seated.

In response to God’s grace,
it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.
We are grateful for your generosity,
which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation,
we encourage you to give to your home congregation first,
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also
so that we can continue to take our worship online
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.

Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click “donate”
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.



SONG OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

*(as found in the ELCA worship books Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 266,
This Far by Faith # 47, and With One Voice # 629)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

*Text: based on Isaiah 7:10-14, 40:1-11, Matthew 1:18-25, 3:1-12, Luke 2:33, 38, James 5:7-10
by Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946; Meter 11 11 12 12*

*Music: TODA LA TIERRA by Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992;
Spanish Text & Tune © 1993 and Translation © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica,
admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.*

*Text & Tune © 1972 Alberto Taulé, admin. Virgil C. Funk;
Translation © 1995 Madeleine Forell Marshall, admin. AusburgFortress;
Arrangement © Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo; Tune: TAULÉ
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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Please be seated.

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

SENDING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

(as found in the ELCA worship books Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 264)

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *(Refrain)***
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *(Refrain)***
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *(Refrain)***

*Text: based on Psalm 24:7-10, Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 3:3, 21:8-9, Mark 1:2-3, 11:8-10,
Luke 3:4-6, 19:35-38, John 12:12-13, by Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847;
translation Lutheran Book of Worship; Meter 7 6 7 6 7 7 6 6*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting God each step of the way!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)

from “Godspell”

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Words based on Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4 by Stephen Schwartz

Music by Stephen Schwarz

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Copyright renewed.

*Performance by Fairfield County Children's Choir, Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder
with soloists Patrick Agonito, Caroline Lui, Abigail Bruce & the Combined Choirs of the FCCC
at “Spotlight Broadway” at Klein Memorial Auditorium, Bridgeport, CT, 02/01/14*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfxDUNMfry4> [1:58]

Announcements

Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer. You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart. The link is also on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Wednesday evenings we gather on zoom from 6:30-7:15 for Bible study, followed by a brief service of Holy Communion. The upcoming schedule is as follows:

December 8 – we'll spend one week reviewing the Gospel of John.

December 15 – we'll spend a week looking at the Christmas story in the gospels.

(No class 12/22 & 29 – Christmas break)

January – we'll begin our study of the book of Acts, a time when the church and the world were in some ways quite similar to the church and the world today.

Link will be on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Give thanks with a grateful heart – This past year has been full of challenges for each of us personally and for Salem as a congregation. But God has been with us through all of it. Over the next several weeks, let's reflect on the things for which we are thankful. In your bulletin is a slip of paper; please fill that out and deposit it in the offering box. We will collect these thoughts, post them on a board, and include them in the next week's prayers. (Those who are not worshipping in person can participate by emailing your thankful thoughts to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net so we can include them.)

Salem's Annual Seafarers Collection. Our annual collection will begin starting on Nov. 1 and run until Dec. 5. We are collecting Woolen Caps, Sweatshirts (L-XL), Thermal or White Socks, T-Shirts (L), Chocolate, Canned Nuts, and Hard Candy. Please place your contribution in the marked box in the Narthex. Also, Cash contributions can be sent to **Ruth Setaro, 33 Valley Brook Lane, North Haven, CT 06473** with a note specifying that it is for the Seafarers and include your name and address. Pastor Ruth Setaro will send you a thank you card for your records.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Monday, December 6, 2021

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey.

According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

While a governor of northern Italy,

Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized.

He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN:

The Magnificat

The ELCA Wittenberg Center invites you to a three-part webinar series to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's commentary on the Magnificat and the continued significance of Mary's voice. Each hour-long session will take place at 12 pm Central time.

DECEMBER
15

My Soul Magnifies the Lord:
The Gift of Mary's Voice

DECEMBER
16

Brought Down the Mighty From Their Thrones:
The Strength of Mary's Voice

DECEMBER
17

From Generation to Generation:
The Future of Mary's Voice



Five-hundred years ago, Martin Luther published his Commentary on the “Magnificat” or Mary’s Song from Luke 1:46-55. This text was sung or read at every evening prayer for well over a thousand years. It also is a primary reading for worship in the season of Advent. The ELCA Wittenberg Center invites you to a three-part webinar entitled “The Magnificat: Turning the World Upside Down.”

This webinar series—in English with Spanish interpretation—is a collaborative effort across the Service and Justice unit of the ELCA led by the Europe Desk through the ELCA Wittenberg Center. In each of the one-hour sessions, the Director of the Center, the Rev. Dr. Robert Moore will host two guest speakers. Each of the featured speakers will bring a unique perspective to both the biblical text and Luther’s commentary.

Wednesday Dec 15: “My Soul Magnifies the Lord: The Gift of Mary’s Voice”

The Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt (Luther College) & the Rev. Heidi Neumark (Trinity Lutheran, Manhattan) will explore the biblical text from Luke, its interpretation, and use over the centuries.

Thursday Dec 16: “Brought Down the Mighty from Their Thrones: The Strength of Mary’s Voice”

The Rev. Dr. Mary Lowe (Augsburg University) & the Rev. Angela Trejo Haager (Lutheran Augsburg Seminary in Mexico) will explore Luther’s Commentary on the Magnificat and the response with the church to the Mary’s song.

Friday Dec 17: “From Generation to Generation: The Future of Mary’s Voice”

The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin (United Lutheran Seminary) & the Rev. Dr. Mercedes Garcia Bachmann (Institute for Pastoral Contextual Studies of the Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay (IELU)) will explore the implication of the texts for the future of humanity and all creation.

All sessions will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

Please register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Later, a free copy of Luther’s Commentary on the Magnificat, courtesy of Fortress Press, will be sent to you.

To register go to: <http://bit.ly/MagnificatWebinar>

Join us for what will surely be a great event during the Advent season! We will send a reminder to all registrants.

Grace to you,
The Rev. Robert G. Moore, Ph.D.