

The People of God Gathered to Worship As  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST SALEM**

**December 7, 2025**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**Welcome**

**Prayer Requests**

**Minute for Missions**

**Choral Call To Worship**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Opening Hymn**

***Prepare the Way***  
**v. 1,2,3 #13 Presbyterian Hymnal**

**Passing of the Peace**

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners with the peace of Christ:

*“May the Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you!”*  
***And also, with you.”***

**Hymn of Illumination**

***Open Our Eyes, LORD***  
**v. 1 #633 Celebration Hymnal**

***FIRST SCRIPTURE READING***

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall**

lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN – Why in the Cold?*

*CHORAL ANTHEM – A Cradle Waits*

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Sermon - The People of God Could Come From Anywhere

Pastor Dan McCurdy

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we are sinful people living in a sinful world. All around us, everyday we see more and more signs of how the world requires your love, your power, and your beauty. We have not done all that you call us to do, and we do many things you tell us not to do. We have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, and might, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, LORD, hear our cry for you to come and set all that is wrong right, and listen to the silent confessions of our hearts.**

### **Moment of Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen.**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

#### ***The Apostles Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty.  
From there 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.**

### **Presentation of Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts**

**The Gifts of God are all around us, our lives and our homes, our talents and our joys, our family and friends, and the greatest gift of all was the Salvation promised, the life of Christ seeking to end our division from God and each other. When we give, we do not do so to purchase anything... for the gifts of God were already given. Instead, we give in imitation of our LORD, offering what we have to support others, and to be ourselves the gift that God gives the World, so let us worship God with our Giving.**

## **Offertory – *In The Bleak Midwinter***

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, our gifts are small next to all that you have given us. Take our gifts, LORD, and make them holy, so that they may help to feed the hungry, grow the church, and share your Light with a world lost in darkness. Amen.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's prayer (Debts/Debtors)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your Hearts.

**We lift them up to the LORD!**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Most holy and gracious God, we praise you who has gathered us around this table... and who forever sing to the glory of your name;

**Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of Power and Might,**

**Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Forgiving God, we call upon you in our times of fear and doubt... for great is the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is Risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

And while we wait on that day when we will share this meal in heaven with you, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
And the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Receiving The Elements**

#### **Closing Hymn**

***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
#2 Presbyterian Hymnal***

### **Benediction**

#### **Song of Sending**

***Precious LORD, Take my Hand  
v.1 #684 Celebration Hymnal***

**Pastor:        Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **The Postlude**

**Nursery Available – 4k and under only  
Not staffed**

December 7, 2025 Worship Team	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Nancy Olson
<b>Musicians</b>	Caroline Sells Vocal Choir
<b>Music Director</b>	Lisa Jones
<b>Accompanist</b>	Julie Baker
<b>Sound Room</b>	Elsa Wolbrink
<b>Usher</b>	Kelly Crusan

**Tithes and Offerings**

Donations can be mailed to:

**Presbyterian Church of West Salem**

**PO Box 861**

**West Salem, WI 54669**

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***Tabitha Circle***

***1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays***

***11:30am – 2:30pm***

***Bring a lunch***

***Would you like a visit from the Pastor?***

***You are important to the Presbyterian Church  
of West Salem. Please contact the church  
office if you would like a pastoral visit or to set  
up an appointment with the pastor.***

***Call 608-786-0910***

***Or [preschurchws@gmail.com](mailto:preschurchws@gmail.com)***

The ongoing mission of The Presbyterian Women is to support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need Now) by collecting needed items (lists are on tables and Lamplighter. All items can be placed in the purple tote at the back of the sanctuary. Money donations are accepted as well.

**Exercise Group**

**9:00 to 10:00 am**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Support the West Salem Food Pantry  
Please bring food and home donations  
and place them in the shopping carts  
between the entryway doors.**

**Special Congregational Meeting  
to elect Elders and Deacons  
Today**

**Community Dinner**

**December 17th**

**5-6 pm**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**5pm**

**PW Potluck Meeting – After church on Sunday,  
December 14<sup>th</sup> ALL women of the church are invited  
to this meeting. We will decide on the disbursement  
of funds to various missions and talk about what's  
ahead in 2026. We will be taking up a collection for  
the Hunger Offering. Please consider attending!**

**The Giving Tree Mission**

**Use an envelope from the Giving Tree  
in the back of the Sanctuary to donate towards  
a Family Farm Bundle.**

**Kids Christmas Pageant**

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**New Membership Class**

**January 11 & 18, 2026 at 9 a.m. in the Chapel**

**Interested? Contact Pastor Dan, (608) 786-0910**

**Or Vickie Bain, (608) 769-3041**

**Youth Group**

**Today from 11:30 to 12:30**

**Ecumenical Advent Worship**

**Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

***We will join in a Christmas Carol Sing,  
followed by a time of fellowship and treats.***