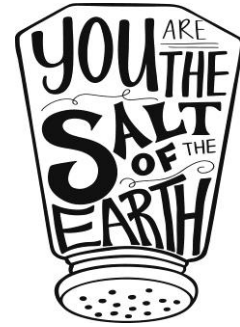


Advent Midweek Service 2  
The Word Made Flesh  
December 11, 2024 5:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Faribault, MN 55021



**Week 2: Salt of the Earth**  
**Order of Service**

**Announcements**

P "You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13

**Opening Hymn "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"** LSB 334, sts. 1,4,5

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly All that may please you best.

4 Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot his love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, Text and tune: Public domain

**Invocation Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (*Two blue candles are lit on the Advent wreath.*)

P Today, we light the second candle on the Advent wreath as we remember that in Old Testament times, salt was added to offerings—the salt of the covenant, a pleasing aroma ascending to God. Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, was born among us. Through Jesus his Son, God fulfilled his covenant promise to send the Savior, who came to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

**C Jesus, through your sacrifice, you have brought us forgiveness and peace.**

P Jesus has called us to be both light and salt in the world. Jesus said, "Have salt in yourselves" (Mark 9:50). Salt preserves food and adds flavor. Through our words and actions, we bring the saving taste of Jesus' love and compassion to the world.

**C Dear Savior, help us to reflect your love to the people we meet each day.**

**Confession and Absolution**

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** **Lord God, we are called by our Savior to have salt in ourselves, to reflect his love and compassion, yet we often turn away from his will for us. Instead of sharing Jesus' love, we seek to follow our sinful desires and listen to the temptations of the world. We should act with compassion toward others, but instead, we seek to satisfy our own needs. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, born in Bethlehem, to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross. For his sake we are forgiven. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** **Jesus, teach us to speak and act with compassion and love. Teach us to have salt in ourselves!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn ... "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338, sts. 1**

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

**Children's Sermon**

**Hymn ... "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338, sts. 2**

2 Born thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain*

**Old Testament Reading ... Leviticus 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>As an offering of firstfruits you may bring them to the LORD, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing aroma. <sup>13</sup>You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading ... Colossians 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading ... Mark 9:50**

<sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Hymn ... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357, sts. 1,2,7**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all thing mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, And be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
ext and tune: Public domain*

**Sermon “SALT OF THE EARTH” The Rev. Peter Gueldner****Apostles’ Creed**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Offering “The Hands That First Held Mary’s Child” Steve Denninger**

**Prayers**

*Each petition concludes with the following response:*

P Jesus, Prince of Peace,

**C Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

**Lord's Prayer**

P Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...

**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**

**Benediction** (Colossians 4:5-6; Numbers 6:24-26)

P Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

**C Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**Closing Hymn ... "Hark the Glad Sound" LSB 349, sts. 1-4**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior  
comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved name.

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
Text and tune: Public domain*

\* \* \* **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** \* \* \*