

# Worship Guide for December 14, 2025

## The Third Sunday of Advent



### Welcome and Announcements

*Let us prepare our hearts for worship.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Confession and Forgiveness

As we enter the season of Advent, a time of watching, waiting, and hoping for Christ's coming, let us prepare our hearts by confessing our sin and placing our trust in God's mercy.

*Silence for personal reflection*

Gracious God, ***forgive us that we do not always wait for you with patience. We grow weary, distracted, and discouraged by the brokenness of the world and the burdens we carry. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us and turn our hearts toward the promise of your light shining in the darkness. Come, Lord Jesus, make us ready to receive you with joy. Amen.***

Hear the good news, God sent the Son, born of Mary, to save and redeem us. In Christ's coming among us, God draws near with healing, forgiveness, and peace. 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. ***Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.***

**Gathering Hymn****Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

**Prayer of the Day**

Together we pray: *Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Reading of the Word****First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Acclamation****Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

**Christmas Program & Choir Concert**

Isla Medberry – Narrator	Carson Hays - Wiseman
Harper Medberry – Angel	Porter Hays - Shepherd
Oakley Mystic – Sheep	Presley Pitt - Angel
Briggs Mystic – Shepherd	Otis Pitt - Joseph
Jane Comfort – Angel	Bexley Stevens - Mary
Emery Ferdig – Innkeeper	Daxton Stevens - Donkey

Welcome to New Salem - we are blessed to have you worship with us today!



If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at [newsalem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:newsalem@paulbunyan.net). If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

Website: [newsalemlutheran.org](http://newsalemlutheran.org)

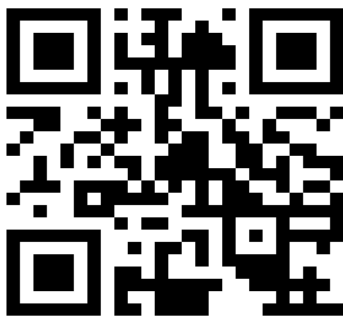
YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

### Worship Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with various Sunday ministries here at New Salem! Ushers, readers/Communion assistants, helpers to set up Communion before the worship service and tidy up afterward, offering counters (we will train you!), and hosts for our coffee fellowship after worship. Sign up as a family or team up with a friend or two! **Signup sheets are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Remember: If no one signs up to host coffee fellowship, THERE IS NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP.®**



### Support the Missions and Ministries of New Salem Electronically!



Use your phone to scan the QR code to the left; it will take you to a secure Vanco page where you can quickly and easily make your gift!



**Hymn of the Day****There is a Longing in Our Hearts**

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

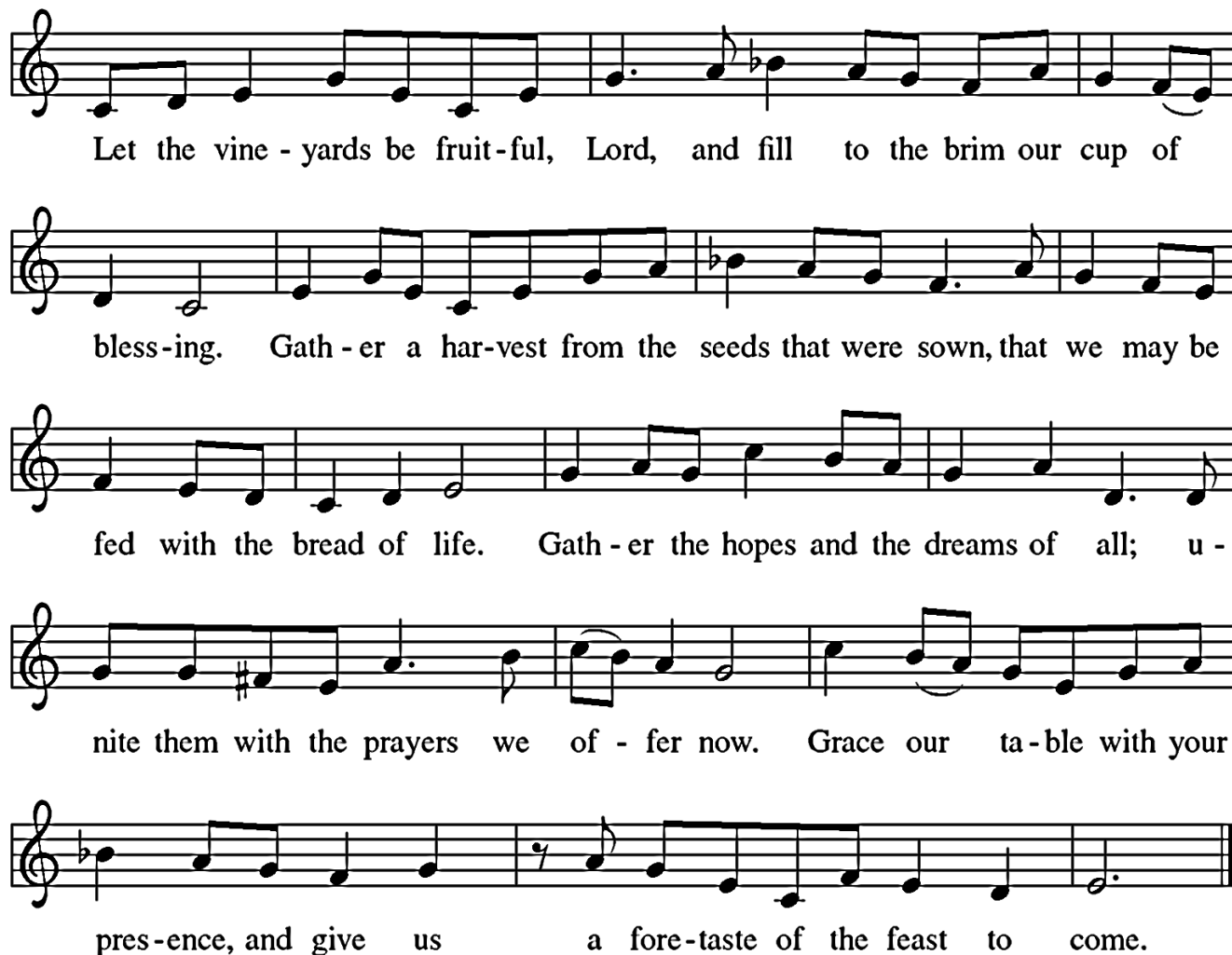


be near; hear our prayer, O God.

*Refrain***Prayers of the People**

In your name, *Lord Jesus Hear our prayer.*

**Sharing the Peace****Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Hymn****Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**


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

**Offering Prayer**

Generous God, *all that we have comes from you. Take these gifts we bring, and use them to bring hope, healing, and love to the world. Make us bold in sharing your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Words of Institution****Lord's Prayer**

Together we pray: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**Sharing Christ's Meal**



**Communion Hymn #1****Christ, Be Our Light!***Refrain*

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.



**Communion Hymn #2****O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*



**YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN**

**November Income vs Expenses (FINAL)**

**Total General Fund Income for Nov: \$15,131**  
**DEFICIT for Nov: (-\$3,702)**

**Total Expenses for Nov: \$18,833**  
**12.7.25 General Fund Offering: \$4,523**

**Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 12.12.25)**

**Dec 7 Attendance (in person/online): 77/24**  
**YouTube Subscribers: 134**

**YouTube Views (2025 to date): 2,109**  
**Facebook reach (2025 to date): 70,346**

**Announcements for the Week of December 15, 2025**

**Advent is Here!** New Salem will have a final mid-week Advent Service featuring the *Holden Evening Prayer* at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17. For Christmas, there will be one service on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m.

**December 16 is Team/Council Night:** Teams will meet at 6 p.m.; the Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend the meeting as an observer; If you have a particular issue to bring to the Council, please let Pastor Terry or Traci in the church office know and they will add you to the speakers' agenda.

**Offering Reminder:** Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked "general" go toward New Salem's annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

**Upcoming Events @ New Salem**

<b>Wed, 12/17</b>	<b>NO Choir Practice</b>	
	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thurs, 12/18</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Wed, 12/24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thurs, 12/25 – Fri, 12/26</b>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church and Office Closed</b>	
<b>Mon, 12/29 – Mon 1/5/26</b>	<b>Pastor Terry On Vacation</b>	
<b>Wed, 12/31 – Fri, 1/2</b>	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church and Office Closed</b>	
<b>Wed, 1/7</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>Thurs, 1/8</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>



### **Music Rights/Permissions for December 14**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service and include the printed music in this worship guide has been obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A-726224; credits are as follows:

**Now the Heavens Start to Whisper** – Text: Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953)

Music: Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version/Text © 2000 GIA Publications Inc.

Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

**Come Now, O Prince of Peace** – Text and music: Geonyong Lee (b. 1947); tr. Martin Pope

Text and music © Geonyong Lee

**There is a Longing in Our Hearts** – Text and music: Anne Quigley (b. 1955)

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley, admin. OCP Publications

**Let the Vineyards be Fruitful** – Music: Richard W. Hillert (b. 1923)/Text and music © 1978

*Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Christ, Be Our Light** – Text and music: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** – Text: *Psalterionum Catholicorum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent./Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © Augsburg Fortress

**He Came Down** – Text and music: Cameroon traditional; music arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949)

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community; admin. GIA Publications, Inc.







## New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner December 2025



### Safe water access

A simple water well or other water point can help as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water. **\$2,500**

### *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*



Christmas is a time of gifting one another in response to God's greatest gift to us in becoming human and walking among us, and ultimately, dying on the cross to bring us salvation once and for all.

**When we celebrate a birthday, we are careful to give what the person really wants or needs.** Is there any doubt what Jesus wants from us? He insists that in order to give to him, we must find him in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned.

You're probably familiar with New Salem's Giving Tree. This season, we're doing something a bit different. Instead of each of us buying separate gifts, we're going together, as a congregation, to pool our resources and purchase a larger gift. The Stewardship and Outreach Team has selected the goal of buying a water well to provide safe, clean water to an entire village.

This Christmas, for each \$1 you spend on gifts for family and friends, consider donating \$1 to help a village gain a well to provide clean water, something we all take for granted when we turn on the tap.

Watch the weekly bulletins to learn how you can participate in this gift.

*Merry  
Christmas*

ELCA  
**GOOD  
GIFTS**  
Catalog

If you'd still like to purchase individual items from the Good Gifts catalog, feel free to do that. It can be found at <https://goodgifts.elca.org>

## Sermon Notes/Weekly Assignment