



Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE. Henry T. Smart. 1813–1879

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 gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did

not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY

HARK, THE HEARALD ANGELS SING

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



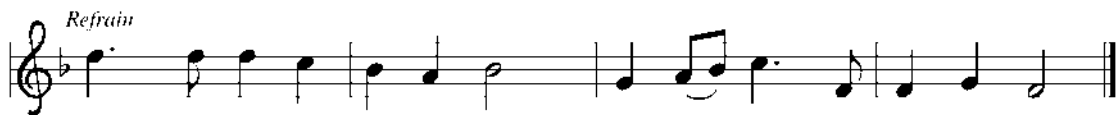
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all

who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

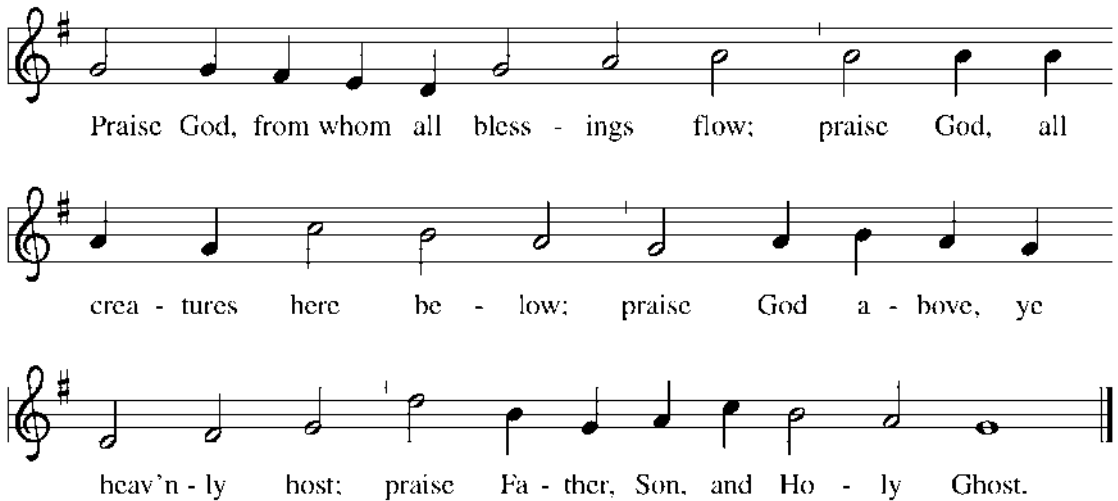
P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW ELW p.885



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH. Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

- A. Let us pray. Good and loving God,
C. **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION (Instrumental Music)

TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray. God our redeemer,

C. you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gath-

ered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

P. God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE!

ELW #288



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

DISMISSAL

P. Christ the Savior is born. Go in peace to share the good news.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

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ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Judy Bar Hoover, Pete & Debi Ellertsen, Larry Weyhrich, Pamela Scott,
Janelle Feddersen,

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Other than those in the Military will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified.

Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DEC. 25

In Person Worship

MONDAY, DEC. 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

In Person Worship / Livestream—9:30am

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25:

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Lois Moorman

Musician: Brenda Peck

Ushers: Ron & Susan Krause

Camera: NO LIVESTREAM

PowerPoint: Linda Rice

Fellowship: Linda Rice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHEPHERD DINNER IS BACK!

PRIOR TO THE COVID ERA, PEACE SPONSORED SHEPHERD DINNERS. THESE DINNERS WERE A ONCE-A-MONTH ACTIVITY WHERE CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TOOK TIME TO SHARE DINNERS AND BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED. EACH DINNER GROUP CONSISTED OF FOUR "SOMEWHAT RANDOMLY-SELECTED" COUPLES OR SINGLES AND MET ONCE-A-MONTH AT RESTAURANTS (OR HOMES) OVER A FOUR-MONTH PERIOD.



CONTACT VERNON KLEEN FOR SIGNING UP OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

NO CHOIR WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

THERE WILL BE **NO** CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH. CHOIR WILL START UP AGAIN THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH AT 7:00 PM, AND MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY.





DECEMEBER 26 -NANCY GUNTER

DECEMEBER 28 - STEVE BARHOOVER

DECEMEBER 30 - CARTER KIM

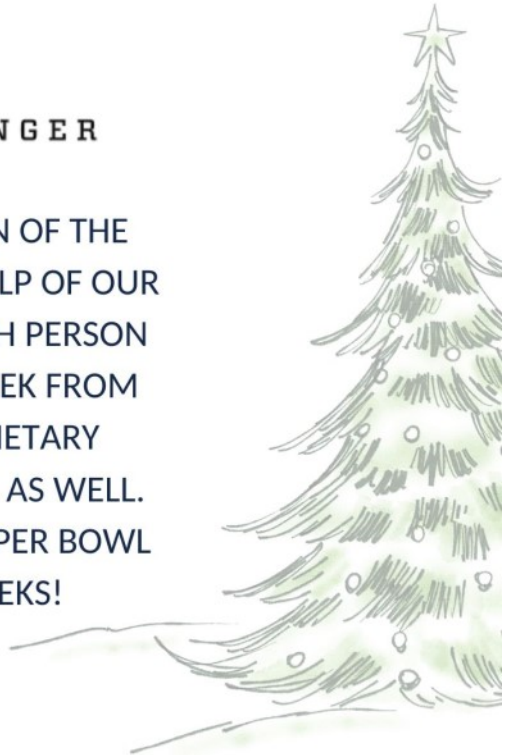
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

TACKLE



HUNGER

PEACE WILL CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING WITH THE HELP OF OUR MEMBERS. THE CHALLENGE IS FOR EACH PERSON TO DONATE 2 CANS OF SOUP EACH WEEK FROM JANUARY 1ST - FEBRUARY 5TH. MONETARY DONATIONS ARE CERTAINLY WELCOME AS WELL. PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ON THE SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE OVER THE NEXT 5 WEEKS!



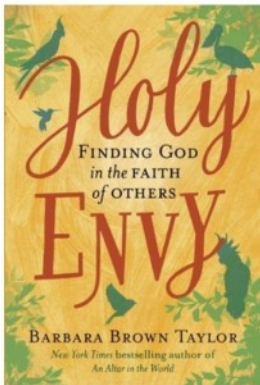
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, FOLLOWING THE 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE. ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON JAN. 29TH IN THE NARTHEX, OR ON THE WEBSITE UNDER THE MEMBERS SECTION.

POINSETTIA REMINDER:

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ORDERED A POINSETTIA. PAYMENTS MAY BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION PLATE OR MAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. *PLEASE INDICATE "POINSETTIA"*



WHEN: SUNDAYS AT 6 PM
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BEGINNING JANUARY 2023
6 TO 7 PM ON ZOOM

FOR DETAILS: CONTACT DEBI AND PETE
ELLERTSEN

EDMUND.ELLERTSEN85@GMAIL.COM
217-793-2587





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