

First Sunday of Christmas Sunday, December 26, 2021

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. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace.

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open,

to you all desires known.

We come to you, confessing our sins.

Forgive us in your mercy,

and remember us in your love,

Show us your ways; teach us your paths;

and lead us in justice and truth,

for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

And for his sake God forgive us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by its 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.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

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.

DIALOGUE

- P. Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
- C. By day and night je shines for all to see.
- P. Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

- C. that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
- P. God do loved the world that God sent Jesus,
- C. so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
- P. Jesus is the light of the world.
- C. Jesus is the light of our lives.
- P. Sing to God a new song!
- C. A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Let us pray, Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Through born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hears.
- C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

- P. The Gospel of Our Lord.
- C. Praise to you, O Christ.

that

a



- 1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled,
- With in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found;
 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
- 3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as 4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



*God the Lord of all earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be the rag - ged robe of rab - bit en-wrapped his beau-ty round; skin but was the ring of glo - ry the help - less in - fant there. The on ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come.



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn: as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high: chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt. kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a!

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt. Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent. Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

^{*} original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

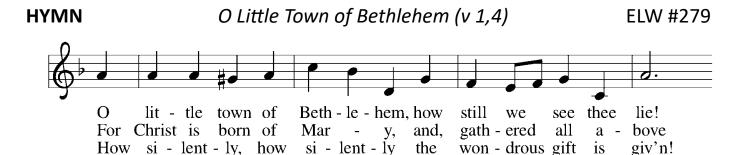
If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil,

we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

ho - ly child of

P. The Gospel of Our Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.





Beth - le - hem, de - scend to

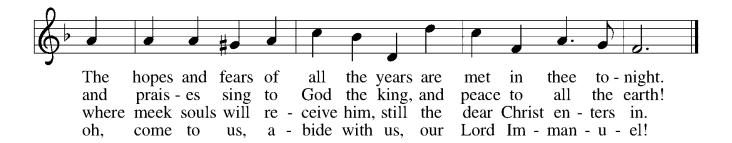
us.

we

pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. cast out our sin, and en - ter in. be born in us to - day.





Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-33, 38

Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

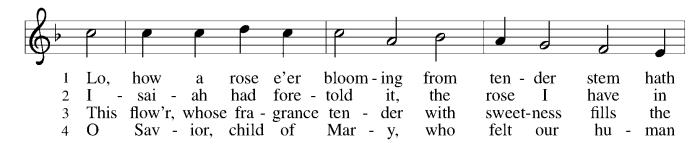
P. The Gospel of Our Lord.

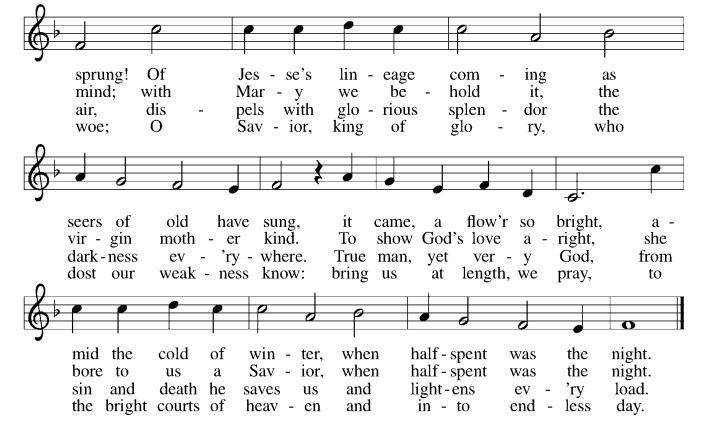
C. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (v 1,2,4)

ELW #272





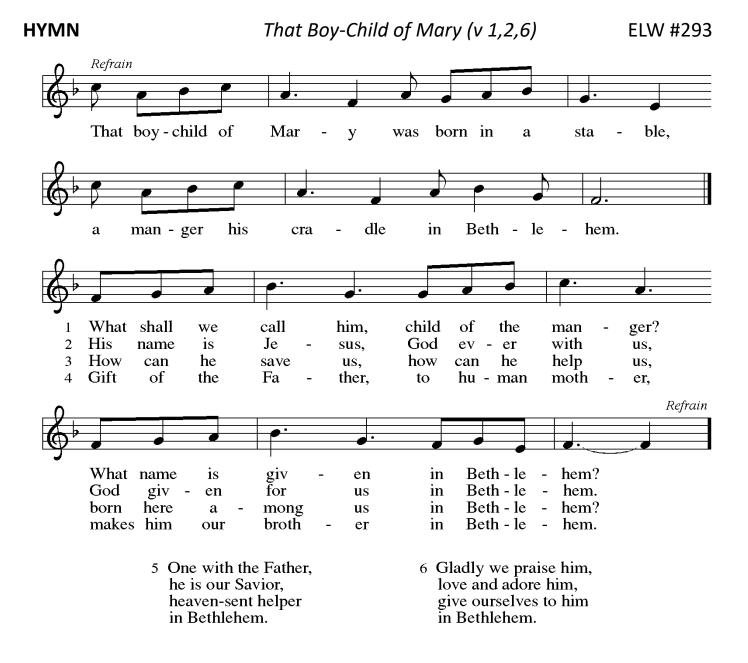
Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599

FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew. ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

- P. The Gospel of Our Lord.
- C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

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FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news

of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P. The Gospel of Our Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v 1,2) **HYMN**

ELW #275



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



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: God with us re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the is now 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.



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

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

A reading from Matthew. ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

P. The Gospel of Our Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN

What Child is This (v 1,3)

ELW #296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

SEVENTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

A reading from John. 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.

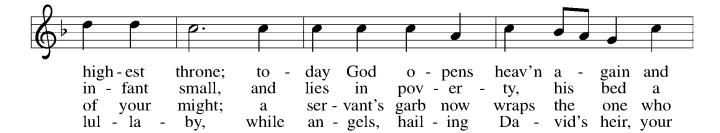
- ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
- P. The Gospel of Our Lord.
- C. Praise to you, O Christ.

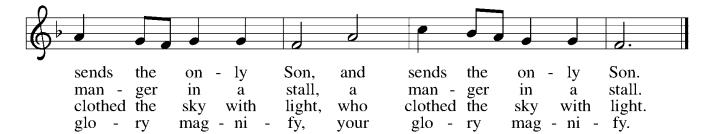
HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God (v 1,3,6)

ELW #287







- 5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.
- Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version Music: Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, Nikolaus Herman Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
- 6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P. It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
- C. Your Word, Jesus, is truth
- P. In his light, draw all to the manger
- C. to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

- P. In his light, draw all to the manger
- C. to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.
- P. In his light, draw to the manger
- C. to sing for joy with the angels.
- P. In the brightness of his life
- C. cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.
- P. It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
- C. In the light of Jesus, Show the world the way of life. Amen.

OFFERING HYMN He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman) Ingram/Andrews

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.

BLESSING

- P. Let us bless the Lord.
- C. Thanks be to God.
- P. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

- P. Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus
- C. Thanks be to God.

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News You Can Use

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 26 — Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

Monday, December 27—John, Apostle and Evangelist

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

Tuesday, December 28—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Saturday, January 1—Name of Jesus

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Doris Fischer, Walter Hoyt, Jim (brother of Patti Christell), Henry Harms Verlene Urekar, Jim Neal, Dale Kruckeberg, Joe O'Brien, Jane Titone

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. If interested in assisting on Saturdays or Sundays, please call the church office at 217.546-7646, or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DEC 26 In Person Worship/Livestream,—9:30am

MONDAY, DEC 27 OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, DEC 31 OFFICE CLOSED—NEW YEARS EVE

SUNDAY, JAN 2 In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

Drive Thru Communion—11:00am to 11:30am

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26:

Drive thru communion Parking Lot: No Drive Thru Communion

SUNDAY IN-PERSON SERVICE:

Assisting Minister: Amanda Kim Ushers: Ron & Susan Krause

Video: Linda Rice Camera: Janet Kocis











Blackhawk School Collection

Clorox wipes/Kleenex

Drop off at church office, during worship or drive thru communion.



Adult Faith Formation

More Info in NYCU

Words of Life

Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

Adam Hamilton

Bestselling Author of Making Sense of the Bible





Grace Lutheran Food
Pantry has been chosen
for the month of
December, 2021 to receive
donations from the
purchase of the reusable
"My Heart" Bag.

More Info in the NYCU



Let's help start a "Take What You Need" cart with donations of personal hygiene products.

More info in NYCU





2022 OFFERING
ENVELOPES HAVE
ARRIVED. PICK UP IN
THE NARTHEX AFTER
WORSHIP, DURING
DRIVE THRU
COMMUNION OR
CHURCH HOURS.