



1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a 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.**

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior

⁹in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW P. 188

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: Matthew 2:13-23

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

This tragic account in Matthew's gospel today comes as a bleak and jarring interruption

in this season of joy. It is a hard text to hear and a hard text to preach. And yet this text speaks truths that we would do well to hear, in this and all seasons.

This story of terror also invites us to see, confront, and lament the griefs and injustices in our world, none of which take a nice, neat break for the holidays. As the holy family fled to safety, so also do current populations of refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers flee their homelands in search of security and opportunity. As Herod rages out of insecurity and fear, so also do our government and world leaders grapple and ever go to war over questions of power, authority, and control. As the trauma of violence gives way to inconsolable loss, so also do many in our midst know the sting of deep and even debilitating grief.

This gospel account draws us beyond our own celebrations out to the persistent needs in our world. It challenges us to stand in solidarity and compassion with all who do not have the luxury of joy in this season. It gives us permission to honor the griefs and struggles that we are too often told have no place in Christmas cheer and celebration.

Howard Thurman, in his poem “The Work of Christmas,” reminds his listeners that when the bustle of holiday celebrations is through, the needs of the world remain. The true work of the season is hearing the call of the vulnerable and powerless infant Christ, and going forth to attend to the needs of our neighbors and to work toward a world of peace and provision that is truly good news for all people.

HYMN OF THE DAY

GENTLE JOSEPH HEARD A WARNING

ACS #1060



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ-child's fam-'ly lived out what the proph-et had fore-told,
through the des-ert of un-know-ing and the night of doubt they went,
Let us see in ev-'ry strang-er ref-u-gees from Beth-le-hem,



that he might be called from E-gypt as God's peo-ple were of old.
guid-ed by God's prom-ised pres-ence, by that trust made con-fi-dent.
help us of-fer each one wel-come and re-ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

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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.

Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain Pastor Mary and all who minister in your name. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. 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

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW P.184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
C. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts.
C. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -".

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share
 this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

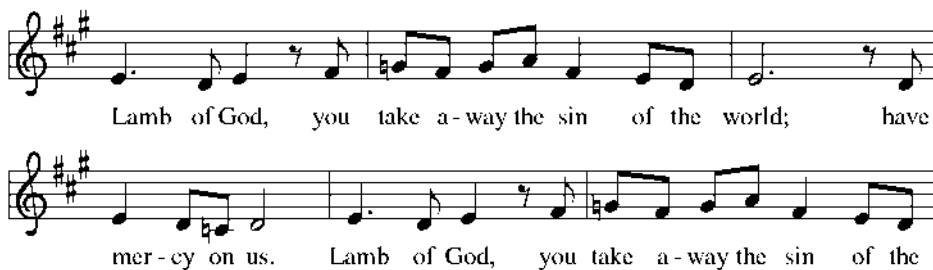
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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.**

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

CONTEMPORARY SONG
WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

ELW # 296

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. Radiant God,
- C. **with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

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.





Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual. refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925. stanzas. alt.

Music: GO TELL IT. African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

P. Christ the Savior is born. Go and proclaim the good news!

C. **Thanks be to God.**

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ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

AS WE CELEBRATE THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, OUR GOSPEL TODAY CONFRONTS US WITH THE DEATH OF INNOCENT CHILDREN AT THE HANDS OF HEROD. THE BIRTH OF CHRIST DOES NOT REMOVE THE POWER OF EVIL FROM OUR WORLD, BUT ITS LIGHT GIVES US HOPE AS WE WALK WITH ALL THE “HOLY INNOCENTS” OF PAST GENERATIONS AND TODAY WHO HAVE SUFFERED UNJUSTLY. IN OUR GATHERING AROUND WORD AND MEAL, GOD CONTINUES TO REDEEM US, LIFT US UP, AND CARRY US AS IN DAYS OF OLD.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, HARRIETT BARTELL, JUDY BARHOOVER,
LARRY WEYHRICH

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

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JAN 1	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM DRIVE THRU COMMUNION—11:00—11:30AM
WEDNESDAY, JAN 4	CHOIR REHEARSAL—7:00PM
SUNDAY, JAN 8	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1:

PRESIDING & PREACHING: REV. MARY E. ZUPANSIC	
ASSISTING MINISTER: CARTER KIM	POWERPOINT: LINDA RICE
MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK	CAMERA: JANET KOCIS
FELLOWSHIP:	
USHERS: LINDA SHUDROWITZ & ANDREA BERRYMAN	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING



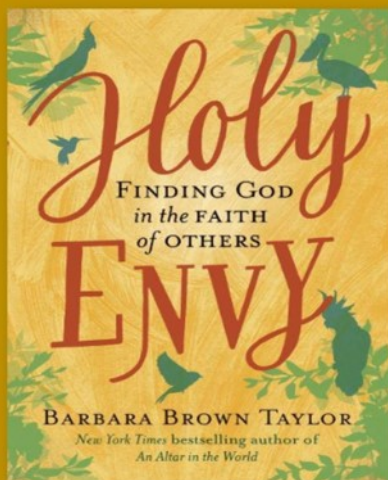
THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**, FOLLOWING THE 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE. ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON JAN. 29TH IN THE NARTHEX, OR ON THE WEBSITE UNDER THE MEMBERS SECTION.

TACKLE



HUNGER

THROUGHOUT JANUARY WE WILL COLLECT CANS OF SOUP FOR GRACE FOOD PANTRY.



Sundays@6
Adult Faith Formation

*Beginning January 2023
6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom*

For details contact
Debi and Pete Ellertsen
Edmund.ellertsen85@gmail.com
217-793-2587

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHEPHERD DINNER IS BACK!



PRIOR TO 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF A PERSON OR EVENT IN THE COMING YEAR PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS ON OUR WEBSITE IN THE MEMBERS’ SECTION. FLOWERS ARE \$35.00

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

IF YOU PLAN TO USE OFFERING ENVELOPES AS YOU GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING EACH WEEK, YOU MAY PICK UP A NEW PACKET IN THE NARTHEX.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2800 W JEFFERSON ST
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702



My Offering

**2023
OFFERING
ENVELOPES
ARE
AVAILABLE
IN THE
NARTHEX**



Peace Lutheran Church
2800 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-546-7646
E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net

HELP STOCK THE MICROPANTRY

Non-perishables
May be put directly
in the pantry or
dropped
off in the church
office.

