

2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE — Of the Father's Love Begotten, (Divinum Mysterium), Lani Smith, arr., © 2009 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Organist — Brenda Peck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264



- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo ple, see him com ing: your own e ter nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen to greet your prom-ised king!
- 4 His is no earth ly king dom; it comes from heav'n a bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear! Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion trib - ute its may bring. is peace and free - dom and His rule jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry: God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you! All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing: So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



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CANTICLE OF PRAISE AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;

 say to the cities of Judah,

 "Here is your God!"

 ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,

 and his recompense before him.

 ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Alleluia! (2 times)





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GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

who will prepare your way;

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

[&]quot;See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

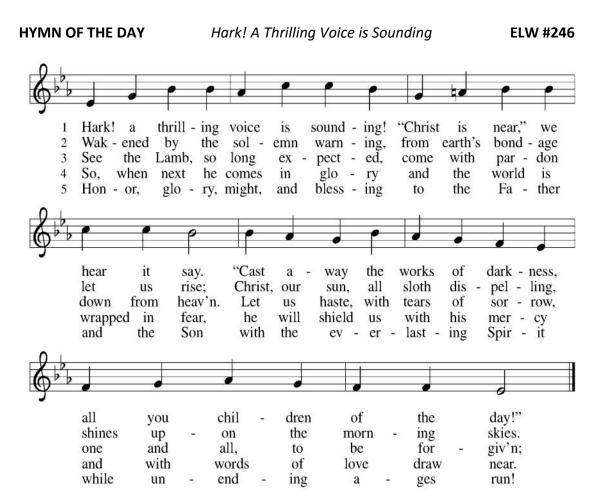
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

APOSTLE'S 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 hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

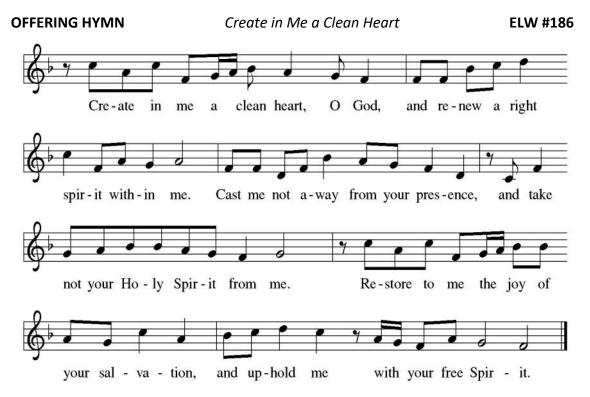
THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

CHOIR ANTHEM - Bring Us Hope Jean Tweet—Violin Ruth Elaine Schram © 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.

+ 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.



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

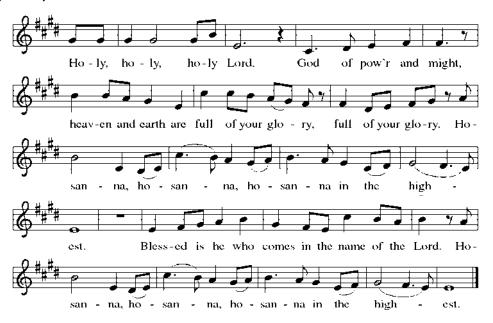
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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. 190



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

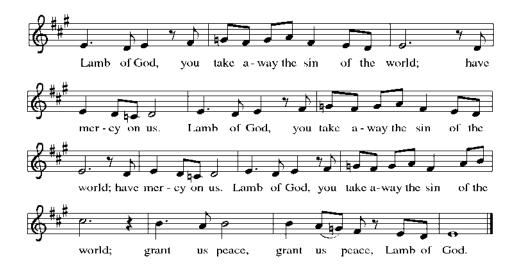
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

LAMB OF GOD ELW P. 191



COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

When the King Comes Contemporary O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1-4) **ELW #257**

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go





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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

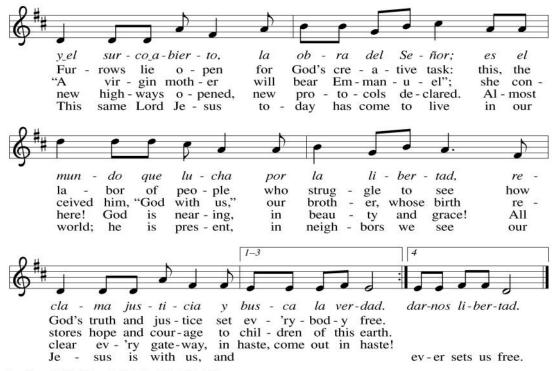
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

All Earth is Hopeful SENDING HYMN **ELW #266** To pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor da la tie - rra es last! All earth is hope - ful, the Say - ior comes at 2 Peo ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell: will Moun - tains and val - levs have to be pre - pared; We Je - sus first saw a ba - by in a crib.



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Praise to the Lord of Heaven, David Paxton, © 1987, Lorenz Pub. Co. Organist — Brenda Peck

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ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

JOHN CALLS PEOPLE TO REPENT, TO CLEAR THE DECKS, TO COMPLETELY REORDER THEIR LIVES SO THAT NOTHING GETS IN THE WAY OF THE LORD'S COMING. THE READING FROM ISAIAH GIVES THE CONTEXT FOR THIS RADICAL CALL: THE ASSURANCE

OF FORGIVENESS THAT ENCOURAGES US TO REPENT; THE PROMISE THAT THE COM-ING ONE WILL BE GENTLE WITH THE LITTLE ONES. ISAIAH CALLS US ALL TO BE HER-ALDS WITH JOHN, TO LIFT UP OUR VOICES FEARLESSLY AND SAY, "SEE, YOUR GOD IS COMING!" WE SAY IT TO ONE ANOTHER IN WORSHIP, IN ORDER TO SAY IT WITH OUR LIVES IN A WORLD IN NEED OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, PAULA TONELLATO, NORM KOEFOED, IVY KOEFOED, RON WEBER, GENE WALKER, MARK HENDERSON

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.

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING: MICHAEL HORN USHERS: ELAINE UREKAR, LIBBY LETTERLY

CAMERA: AMANDA KIM POWERPOINT: VOLUNTEER MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK FELLOWSHIP: SANDY BARKER

FLOWERS: BECKY HENDRICKS — IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ARLYN &

MAUREEN LOBER

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 QUILTERS — 6:00PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 ADVENT DINNER/SERVICE — 5:30PM

CHOIR PRACTICE — 7:00PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

SYNOD RECEPTION FOR PASTOR ELISE — 3:00-5:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DURING WORSHIP

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM



Join us Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Our Midweek Advent Services
will be Dinner Church style!
December 6, 13, 20

Plan to join us Wednesday evenings for our Midweek Advent Services. This year we will follow a "Dinner Church" style service. We gather in the fellowship hall at 5:30p.m. for a meal, scripture, discussion, and the breaking of bread! Come, as we step out of the business of the season and spend time

PAUSING, PREPARING, © PONDERING. (December 6, 13, 20)

HELP US
STOCK OUR
MICRO
PANTRY
STORAGE
SHELVES



- OATMEAL, CEREAL AND PANCAKE MIX
- PASTA SAUCE IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- PASTA
- PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- BROTH
- INSTANT POTATOES
- CRACKERS
- SOUPS
- TUNA IN A POUCH INSTEAD OF A CAN
- OTHER CANNED MEATS
- NOODLE OR POTATO SIDES
- STUFFING MIX
- CEREAL BARS, GRANOLA BARS, TRAIL MIX AND NUTS
- COFFEE
- PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT

THANK YOU FOR BEING A NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBORS!



CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Sponsors needed for 2024! Call Yvonne in the church office to pick your date! 217-546-7646 \$35.00



If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary or you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone at 920.671.4338.

WRAPPED AND LABELED

BLACKHAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

DUE BY SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10

SEE NYCU FOR MORE INFO



HELP FILL THE FOOD BASKETS FOR BLACKHAWK FAMILIES

November 19

40 cans each of peaches and pears20 cans of pork and beans

November 26

40 cans each of tomato soup and chicken noodle soup20 cans of beef ravioli

December 3

40 boxes of cereal

December 10

20 jars each (non-glass) of jelly and peanut butter20 boxes/packages of spaghetti



Peace Lutheran Church 2800 West Jefferson Springfield, IL 62702 Phone: 217-546-7646

E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net



Join us on Sunday, December 17, 2023, during 9:30AM worship for our Children's Christmas Program.