



2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 4, 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 Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE &
LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD

ELW p. 159



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹Give the king your jus-¹ tice, O God,
and your righteousness to¹ the king's son;
²**that he may rule your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a-¹ mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush¹ the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and¹ moon endure,
from one generation¹ to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ ter the earth.**
⁷In his time may the¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall¹ be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the¹ God of Israel;
you alone do¹ wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious¹ name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A-¹ men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

Today’s image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does

unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, “Eat or *be eaten*” is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!

HYMN OF THE DAY

ON JORDAN'S BANK

ELW #249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologi-

ans Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and for those who have asked for our prayers. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

ELW p.186



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

- A. Let us pray. Eternal God,
C. **you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. 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. 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. 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both 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. Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.
 C. Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146

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.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

CONTEMPORARY

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

ELW # 257 vv 1-4, 8

TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

HOLY ONE, NOW LET YOUR SERVANTS GO

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in We our - selves, we know the heal - ing you've pre - We pro - claim the light to show you to the Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "peace. pared, world, peace. Your word and all for glo - ry, Is - ra - el. Your word has been the world can see. has been ful - filled." There are some musical notations like "4" above the vocal line in the second system.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us Pray, God for whom we wait,

C. **in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

P. God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.



To da la tie rra es pe ra, al Sal va dor
 1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared:
 4 We first saw Je-sus a ha-by in a crib.



y el sur co a bier to, la ob ra del Se ñor; es el
 Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task; this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



mun-do que lu-cha por la li-ber-tad, re-
 la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world: he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our



cla-ma jus-ti-cia y bus-ca la ver-dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.
 God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free,
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth,
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel."
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeline Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Mus.: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Christ is near.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

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ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Judy Barhoover, Pete Ellertsen, 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. 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. 4

In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

TUESDAY, DEC. 6

Community Service Committee—5:30pm ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

Potluck—5:45pm

Advent Worship—6:30pm

Choir Rehearsal—7:00pm

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4:

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Mitchell

Musician: Brenda Peck

Ushers: Doug McFarlan

Camera: Janet Kocis

PowerPoint: Linda Rice

Fellowship: Linda Shudrowitz



CEREAL
CANS OF SOUP
GREEN BEANS
SPAGHETTI
PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED FRUIT

SUPPORTING GRACE FOOD PANTRY



Poinsettias:

Thank you to those who have purchased a poinsettia for our Christmas worship space. You may drop a check for the purchase price in the collection plate OR send it to the church office. 6" \$10 | 8" \$20 | 10" \$30

**HEADS
UP**

There is **NO Drive-Thru Communion today!** It has been moved to next Sunday, December 11th.



Peace Lutheran Church
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Holy Disruption

A Mid-Week Advent Service

Breathing – 11/30

Releasing – 12/7

Receiving – 12/14

5:45pm – Soup Supper

6:30pm – Worship