

Peace Lutheran Church

Contemporary Service
2nd Sunday after Christmas
January 5th, 2025

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. A statement of our practice here at Peace may be found at the conclusion of this order of service.

Welcome

Opening Song "I Thank God"

Stand

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession And Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for prayer and personal confession.

P As we have confessed in our hearts, we now confess with our mouths:

C **Gracious God, You have called us to be perfect, just as You are perfect. You have commanded us to love You with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. And yet, despite these commands, we have failed to keep them. We have honored ourselves above You, and we have looked to our own desires, rather than the needs of others. For all of this, we ask for Your forgiveness, won for us by the holy and blameless life of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament-

1 Kings 3:4-15

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know

how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Song of Praise

"Stand In Your Love"

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to

Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Confession of Faith

C 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does it mean to believe the things we have just confessed?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Song of the Day "Open Up the Heavens"

Offering

An offering basket is available at the entrance

Our tithes and offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar.
For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. - 1 Chronicles 29:14

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Dueker

Prayers of the Church

Holy Communion

Stand

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**C 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.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Communion Song "Goodness of God"

Communicants are invited to come forward by sections. Grape juice is available in the center of the communion trays from those distributing. The cups can be placed in the baskets on either side of the sanctuary.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
C Amen.

Closing Song "God So Loved"

† Go in peace and serve the Lord. †

Peace Lutheran Church - Rogers City, MI

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word.

Regarding Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is celebrated here at Peace in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.

Our congregation believes that participating in the Lord's Supper acts as a statement that those communing agree with everything our church body teaches. *See 1 Corinthians 11:26.*

Out of loving care and concern, therefore, we want to do all that we can to make sure that those who participate in our Communion celebration don't violate their own conscience or a public confession of faith made through another church body by making that joint statement of faith with us. In addition, because the New Testament teaches that those who eat and drink of the Lord's Supper unworthily or without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment upon themselves, we want to protect those of a different public confession from potentially suffering spiritual harm. (See 1 Corinthians 11:27-30.)

For these reasons, we ask those who don't know or agree with the teachings of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to consider refraining from communing until a more thorough conversation is possible. In so doing, please understand that we are in no way judging your personal faith. On the contrary, we want to invite you into a deeper fellowship with us that begins with further consideration of what we believe, teach, and confess here at Peace. In the meantime, please sing, pray, and worship with us, and, if you'd like more information about Lutheran teachings or Communion practices, contact the church office at (989) 734-7621 or via email at office@peacelcms.org. If you'd like to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing from Pastor, you are more than welcome. You may indicate the desire to participate in this manner by simply folding your hands across your chest when you come forward. If you simply wish to remain in your seat during Communion, that's okay, too. You won't be alone. Anyone desiring to have Communion brought to them at their seat, perhaps because of a physical or other challenge, please speak to Pastor or the Elder on duty prior to the service.