

Peace Lutheran Church

Contemporary Service 3rd Sunday in Advent December 15th, 2024

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and nature sing, And Heav'n, and Heav'n, and nature sing.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

****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

(Stand)

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

P "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **and His faithfulness to all generations."**

Opening Song

"Great Are You Lord"

Confession And Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for prayer and personal confession.)

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

C **Merciful Father, we confess we have not rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We confess that our love has been misguided. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized**

time is short for the work You've called us to do. For all of this, we ask for Your forgiveness for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lead us in new paths of obedience to the glory of Your name. 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-

Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!*

*Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.*

*The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.*

*On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.*

*The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

*I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.*

*Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.*

*And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.*

*At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.*

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Song of Praise

"Living Hope"

(Stand)

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-35

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

*"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'*

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

*"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'*

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

Confession of Faith

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Song of the Day "In Christ Alone"

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."

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 "Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me"

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

“Lay Me Down”

† Go in peace and serve the Lord. †

Peace Lutheran Church - Rogers City, MI

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1401 M-68 (989) 734-7621

Web: www.peacelcms.org Email: office@peacelcms.org

Pastor: Jonathan Dueker

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.