

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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"Peace Lutheran Church ... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word."

Our Vision: Equipping Our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work and Play

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS December 29, 2024
Divine Service, Setting One

AS WE GATHER

Did you already forget Christmas? The department stores have begun selling the leftovers for a discount because "Christmas is over." For the same reason, formerly decorated Christmas trees already line the streets as refuse for disposal. Even though Christmas songs speak joyously of "the twelve days of Christmas," many, if not most, people seem to think of them as a countdown rather than an extended celebration. Remember? Today, December 29, is but the fifth day of the twelve! We are not done yet. Or did you forget? To "forget" is the opposite of the biblical word we hear today: "remember." But in Scripture, to remember means much more than merely recalling a past event as something that has no real, lasting effect on today; rather, the opposite is true. For instance, God remembers His promises by acting to fulfill them in each believer. For us, to remember means to bring a past promise or act to take effect in the present. Today we hear how the newborn Jesus, as the firstborn of Mary, was presented in the temple according to God's law, a command to remember the Lord's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Every firstborn was to be a reminder that the Lord still delivers His people from the slavery of sin and death. So to remember that it is still Christmas is to believe that the Christ Child who came to free us comes now to each believer. Remember, that is, believe that Christ was born for you to save you. Remember, that is, believe that the forgiveness He won for us on the cross is actually given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar when, as He commanded, we do in remembrance of Him.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" **LSB 386**

OPENING PRAYER

- P** As we gather this morning in worship, let us begin in prayer.
- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life my please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. - *Martin Luther's Morning Prayer*

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- C** For by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place.
- P** His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- C** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of nations.

(Silence for personal reflection)

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy 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.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



- C** A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" **LSB 936**

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 *Pew Bible, pg. 65*

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Colossians 3:12-17 *Pew Bible, pg.1170*

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40 *Pew Bible, pg.1019*

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *1st Article of the Apostles' Creed*

P Together we confess our faith using the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

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

P What does it mean to believe in what we just confessed?

C I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY "All My Heart Again Rejoices" *LSB 360*

SERMON *Pastor– Jonathan Dueker*

OFFERING

- You may also give electronically:
 - Visit our web site: www.peacelcms.org
 - Click on the "Give" button or "Ministries" and then on "Online Giving"
- You may also give by text to (989) 308-4203 & then follow the instructions

OFFERTORY SONG

"A Lullaby Alleluia" (Linda Spevacek)

Sola Deo Gloria

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray. Almighty God, great are Your works of the creation of all things. Greater still is Your mighty work of the redemption of the world from the ravages of sin and death brought on by the rebellion of those created in Your own likeness. We praise You for all Your promises of salvation fulfilled in the sending of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember Your promise of love that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant Your strength and blessing to Your whole church as we live, pray, and work in the remembrance of Your grace and gifts. Bless all pastors and workers in Your church never to forget their calling to faithfully proclaim Your Word and will to a world still struggling against the darkness of sin and unbelief. This morning, we especially remember Matthew, our synod president, David, our district president, Jason, our circuit visitor, and Lucas, our sponsored seminary student. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all leaders and servants in government that they may be endued with a love of peace and the way of justice and righteousness for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all Your people in their various vocations and stations in life, that they may prosper in their lives motivated by Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all who are sick, injured, and undergoing treatment. Grant Your peace, rest, and healing, keeping them in constant faith in Your promises. Remember those who have asked us to intercede for them, especially, *Ruth, Neil, Norm, Ruth, Ed, Ryan, Neil, and Heather, as well as Sandy, Brian, Jenny, Rose, Corey, Paul, Randy, George, and Maci.* Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord, to all who mourn the death of loved ones. Grant that our remembrance of their faith causes us to remain closer to You in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, You have caused Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore, nations will praise You forever and ever. Let Your people not forget Your works, Your Word, or Your benefits. Bring

to mind Your gracious will of our salvation that we may praise You all our days.

C hear our prayer.

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.

BENEDICTION

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 A - men.

CLOSING HYMN "Christ the Eternal Lord"

LSB 829

✠ in the name of Jesus ✠

Acknowledgments:

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