

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

4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024

Divine Service, Setting Three

AS WE GATHER

We often hear it said, and even say it ourselves, that "things aren't like they used to be." We can see it around us in our world, our culture, and even among our own families and homes, whether for better but often for worse. People sometimes have the same impression of the Lord. But our Lord remains unchanged (see Malachi 3:6), and Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see Hebrews 13:8). Since the beginning, our holy Lord has always desired and even demanded holiness. Holiness comes only by the one perfect bodily sacrifice. Our Lord Jesus Christ has made us holy through Himself alone. Because of and through Him, we do not have to be like we used to be; rather, we live in that grace and love as He first loved us.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP "O Come, All Ye Faithful/Joy to the World"

(Arr. Frances L Callahan/Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson)

HandBell Choir

WELCOME

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

OPENING HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **LSB 384 v. 1-3**

INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God's promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father's love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- C** **Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.**
- P** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- C** **They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**
- P** For with You is the fountain of life;
- C** **in Your light do we see light."**

(Four Advent candles are lit)

HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LSB 384 v.4-5

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 personal confession)

- P** O Almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

- P** Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

INTROIT *Luke 1*

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. His mercy is for those who fear Him
- C** **from generation to generation.**
- P** He has shown strength with His arm;
- C** **He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;**
- P** He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
- C** **and exalted those of humble estate;**
- P** He has filled the hungry with good things,
- C** **and the rich He has sent away empty.**
- P** He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.
- C** **as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.**
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.

† **WORD** †

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Into the darkness, You bring light, and into our lives, You make known Your perfect and everlasting love. Make us ready for the celebration of our Savior's birth, that we receive Him as He comes to us, humbly and lowly, bringing to fruition the new covenant of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT Micah 5:2-5a *Pew Bible, pg.926*
(The coming King born in Bethlehem)

R This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 10:5-10 *Pew Bible, pg. 1194*
(Jesus comes to do God's will)

R This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56 *Pew Bible, pg.1017*
(Mary visits Elizabeth)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

LSB 356

SERMON

Pastor – Jonathan Dueker

OFFERTORY SONG "A Hallelujah Christmas" *(Cohen)* *Elise Muller*

OFFERING

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Savior of the nations, we await to celebrate our King, who has come, promised to be born among the small clan of Judah in Bethlehem, fulfiller of the old covenant promise, and bringer of life and grace in the new covenant in which we now live. Give us patience and trust as we await Your return, when You will come to restore and renew what was broken, and to bring life and light everlasting. Be with us as we soon close this Advent season of anticipation and preparation, rejoicing in the everlasting King who has come and will come again. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Everlasting King, we lift up those who have been placed in authority over us in our community, state, nation, and world. Guide and direct their decisions that they be pleasing to You, executing justice and righteousness in all places. Where there is violence and warfare, grant peace. Where there is distress, bring stability. Where there is terror, bring comfort. In all places, may we, Your church, be a light in the world through the gospel we proclaim and the selfless love we give. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P O Righteous Branch of David, Your ways are not our ways nor are Your thoughts our thoughts. In days of doubts and despair that arise, in cases of confusion, and in times of trial and tribulation, remind us of Your kingdom in which we have been called and Your eternal kingdom to come. Build up the relationship of trust that we have with You. Be with those who struggle, especially Karen, Ruth, Neil, Norm, Ruth, Ed, Ryan, Neil, and Heather, as well as Sandy, Jenny, Rose, Corey, Paul, Randy, and Maci. Help us to see Your mighty work even among our wayward world of sin and sorrow and the perfect plan of salvation imparted through the Savior we await. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, Your Word is like a refiner's fire, purging away what is rotten and strengthening what is good. Afflict us when we are comfortable in our sin, and comfort us when our conscience afflicts us. Through the words of Your prophets and apostles, through the words of Your teachers today, and most especially through the words of Your

Son, fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit so that we might be able to discern what is best and live out our days in faithful obedience to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P O King of Israel, You are a Mighty One who will save. Remain in our midst even during moments of tragedy and heartbreak so that we might be quieted by the love You have shown us through Your selfless sacrifice on the cross. Renew our strength found in Your exultation to the Father's side, where You rule and reign over all things working everything together for the good of those whose trust is in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P And now, taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

G 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.

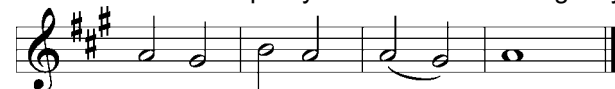
CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1*

P In the beginning was the Word. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

G The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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 \dagger give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *LSB 357 v.1, 7*

✠ in the name of Jesus ✠

Acknowledgments:

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