

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 15, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: THE KING IS COMING! REJOICE

Today is the third Sunday of the season we call Advent. The word Advent means “coming.” Advent builds our anticipation for the coming of Christ – first, when He came as a baby in Bethlehem; secondly, the way He comes to us in Word and Sacrament right now; thirdly, when He will come visibly on the Last Day. The themes of the four Sundays of Advent are as follows:

Watch!

Prepare!

Rejoice!

Behold!

WHAT’S THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH?

The arrangement of four blue candles and one white candle in the front of the worship space is simply a tool for counting off the four Sundays of Advent. On Christmas Eve/Day the white candle is lit. It is a way to build anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

Our children’s Christmas service is taking place today at 1:00 in the gymnasium. This involves all the children of our Sunday School as well as Peace Lutheran Elementary School.

SHUT-IN LIST AVAILABLE

Would you like to send cards to our shut-ins? A list of our shut-ins with their addresses is available on the back counter of the worship space.

WORSHIP TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve – 9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight – 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – 9:00 a.m. (with communion)

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE – DECEMBER 18

6:30 p.m. (about 35 minutes)

Offerings will support Institutional Ministries

VOTERS MEETING

There will be a voters meeting immediately following the Wednesday Advent service on December 18 to extend a divine Call for a 3K teacher.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Luke C. Werre
Accompanist Mrs. Lynn Proeber

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ADVENT – DIVINE SERVICE

GATHERING RITE

The presider will introduce the refrain. The congregation will repeat the refrain and sing it as indicated. A vocalist will sing the verses.

Gently
mp James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of D major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo/mood is marked 'Gently' and 'mp'. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The lyrics 'Come, come Em - man - u - el.' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Come, Em - man - u - el.' are written below. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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*Shout for joy, for the Lord has **R***
*Oh fear not, for God has **R***
*Oh rejoice in the Lord, and **R***
*In your midst is the Lord, so **R***
*For the Lord who is near will **R***
*He will baptize in Spirit and **R***

GREETING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Congregation sings refrain: Come, come Emmanuel...

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ, have mercy upon us and R

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Congregation sings refrain one last time.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 14

Refrain

Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,
come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

Psalm Tone

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men

to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;

there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Come to us, Em - man - u - el; come and set your peo - ple free.

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GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?"

¹¹He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to."

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | CW 316

SERMON

Luke 2:12

A Sign for Your Salvation

Please stand when presider indicates

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

*A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.
Offering plates are by the doors as you go out.*

Please stand when presider indicates

ADVENT PRAYER

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers...

Now hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | CW 327

Please stand

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | CW 313