

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 21, 2025

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: ADVENT 4 - COME, LORD JESUS, AS PROMISED

God's promises are the lifeblood of the faith of his people. In the Old Testament, they clung in faith to his promise of a Savior, especially over time as he revealed more and more about that promised Savior. We look back on those promises and see how they are all fulfilled in Christ. And with confidence we look forward to Jesus keeping his final promise: to bring his people home to him in glory forever. Just as Old Testament believers waited expectantly for their Savior, so too do we in the New Testament. We join in the fervent prayer of believers of all time: **"Come, Lord Jesus!"**

THE FLOW OF ADVENT & CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Advent means "coming, arrival." During Advent, we celebrate three comings of Christ – He came once to save us, He comes to us right now in Word and Sacrament, and He will come again on the last day. Advent begins with a focus more on the second coming of Christ and concludes with the focus on His first coming on this final Sunday of Advent as the long promised Christ is revealed.

This afternoon, our Children's Worship Service will take place at 1 pm. Children from our Peace Lutheran School and Sunday School will proclaim the Christmas Gospel in word and song.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT PEACE: FOUR SERVICES EACH WITH A UNIQUE FOCUS

Come to them all as we receive God’s supreme gift of the Christ-Child

Children’s Christmas Service – December 21st at 1 pm

The children of Peace School and Sunday School proclaim the Christmas Gospel.

Christmas Eve Scripture and Song – December 24th at 9am & 4pm

These two services are identical. The Christmas Eve Scripture lessons are interspersed with Christmas hymns and a meditation focusing on how true Peace Came to Earth in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Candlelight – December 24th at 9pm

For decades, the teens of Peace Lutheran have used their spoken and musical talents to present the Christmas Gospel with a beautiful and contemplative service.

Christmas Day Festival Worship Service – December 25th at 9am

The focus of Christmas Eve is preparatory as we marvel at the humble and quiet way in which God gives the supreme gift of His love in the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Day, we joyfully celebrate and wonder at the mystery of the Incarnation- that the eternal Word of God has become flesh for us. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper at this service.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider.....Rev. Shaun Arndt
Preacher.....Rev. Jordan Ertl
Accompanist.....Mrs. Monica Wintrone

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dawn (Lauds) from Christian Worship
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OPENING HYMN

My Soul in Stillness Waits | CW 325



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re-
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.
whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
us the path-way of your peace.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 710622

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING RITE

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

Christ himself has come down from heaven, has become incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and has become truly human.

He shared in our humanity. By his death destroyed the devil and the power of death, and freed us from fear and slavery forever. (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior, Jesus became flesh and made his dwelling among us. In him you have revealed yourself, your love, and your plan for all humanity. By his Word, make us ready for his coming. Keep our hearts repentant, constantly turning to your path of righteousness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your free Spirit; through him who came to give himself to us and to make us his own, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | CW 327:1,7

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
hearts of all man - kind; O bid our sad di -

ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
vi - sions cease, and be your - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt
Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

¹²But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

¹³So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 89C



1 Love will be our song for - ev - er, faith - ful love from
 2 Heav'n and earth a - like af - firm it: LORD, you are mag -
 3 Once, when Is - rael lacked a lead - er, Da - vid was the
 4 Now, though, we have felt your an - ger; now we find dis -



a - ges past: love en-shrined with - in a prom - ise made by
 nif - i - cent! E - vil pow'rs and hid - den forc - es you have
 man you chose; an ex - alt - ed throne you gave him, and re -
 as - ter near. Shame is ours in - stead of tri - umph; neigh - bors



you and sure to last; hu - man tongues and an - gel voic - es
 ren - dered im - po - tent. At your throne of love and jus - tice
 lief from all his foes; e - ven when your reb - el peo - ple
 see our plight and sneer. How much long - er till you hear us?



join in rev - 'rence and de - light, prais - ing your un -
 we ex - tol you, faith - ful King: blest are those who
 scorned your ways and spurned your law, still your prom - ise
 Life is short, so swift our days! Lord, re - new the



ri - valed splen - dor, lov - ing LORD, the God of might.
 learn to trust you— they have am - ple cause to sing.
 shaped the fu - ture: love en - dur - ing ev - er - more.
 love you prom - ised— fill your peo - ple's hearts with praise.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch

Tune: The Christian Lyre, 1831, ed. Joshua Leavitt

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Tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³This gospel is about his Son, who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, ⁴who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God's powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, ⁶including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

⁷To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus | **CW93 6**



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: St. Hilary (87 87 D) Unknown.

SERMON

Isaiah 7:10-14

He Still Promised

Please stand

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 found by the doors of the worship space.

A special offering can be made by using this QR code.

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (2Co 9:13)



Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day we bless you.

We praise your name forever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy,

for we have put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:

let us never be put to shame.

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.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

CLOSING HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | CW 324



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
- 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
- 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. Composite Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain