

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 28, 2025

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service can be found in the blue hymnal beneath the chair in front of you. Projections are also provided 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: CHRISTMAS 1 – FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

The story of the murder of the baby boys in Bethlehem is seldom heard, but the Christian Church has assigned December 28 as the date to commemorate this appalling event. (See page XXVI in the front part of the blue hymnal.) Christmas made us feel so good and warm, but now this??? Why would God permit a paranoid tyrant to implement this holocaust? What good could come from this? These are hard questions. Today's Scripture readings place squarely before us the conflict between the world and the Kingdom of Christ as well as the necessity of suffering (even unfairly) when we are associated with Christ. Christ tells us to expect as much. But we always look beyond, as Christ did here on earth, to the glory that awaits us in the end.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF "CLOSE COMMUNION"

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you've had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Service – Setting One pg. 154 in the blue hymnal

Hymns

Opening Hymn	333	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
Psalm of the Day	Psalm 30	page 30 in the blue hymnal
Hymn of the Day	374	<i>The Star Proclaims the King Is Here</i>
Communion Hymns	684	<i>Father Welcomes</i>
	850	<i>It Is Well with My Soul</i>
Closing Hymn	332	<i>Let Us All with Gladsome Voice</i>

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:15-17
Second Lesson	1 Peter 4:12-19
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 2:13-18

Sermon

Matthew 2:13-18

GOD SAVES THE CHILD TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN

CONCERNING HYMN #684 – “FATHER WELCOMES”

The Festival of the Holy Innocents reminds us that children and babies are never entirely safe from death in this world, even in the best of circumstances. This hymn serves as a comforting reminder that our children are eternally safe in the hands of their heavenly Father through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider.....	Rev. Luke C. Werre
Keyboard	Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr
Projection Slides	Brittany Kuehl

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:15-17

¹⁵This is what the LORD says.
A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel is weeping for her children.
She refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.
¹⁶This is what the LORD says.
Stop your crying.
Do not shed tears,
because your work will be rewarded, declares the LORD.
They will return from the land of the enemy.
¹⁷There is hope for your future, declares the LORD.
Your children will return to their own borders.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 30

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. ¹⁶But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, where will the ungodly sinner end up? ¹⁹So let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to their faithful Creator while doing what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Tone



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GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–18

¹³After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

¹⁴Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men.

¹⁷Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, when you created Adam and Eve for each other and gave them children you established the family unit. We praise you for the blessing of families. For the blessing of protection, shelter, food, clothing, love, guidance, education and especially instruction in your Word that we receive through our families, please accept our humble thanks. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us patience, understanding, and love in all family interactions. Give us joy and delight in our homes and relationships. Forgive our short fuses and our disputes. Help fathers and mothers provide not only for the physical and material needs of their children but also for their emotional and spiritual needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless the efforts of churches, relatives, government and friends to encourage and support family cohesiveness and health. Strengthen our marriages. Bolster our commitment to each other. Be present in our homes. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Intercessory Prayers

We thank you Father for making us members of your Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Please bless us in the New Year, preserve our lives and well-being and keep us in the true faith. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine (Pr 3:9-10)



Please stand

Worship Notes

The Story behind “It Is Well with My Soul”

A Chicago lawyer, Horatio Spafford, suffered the loss of all his real estate investments in the 1871 Chicago fire leaving him financially devastated.

Then in 1873, his wife, Anna, and their four daughters were traveling on a ship across the Atlantic to Europe. During their voyage the ship collided with another ship in a freak accident. Somehow Anna survived, but all four daughters drowned at sea.

From England, Anna sent her husband a telegram with the now-famous message, “Saved alone. What shall I do?”

Spafford immediately departed to meet his wife in England. While on the ship the captain informed him that they were crossing over the exact spot where the tragedy had occurred and his daughters had perished. Overcome with grief, but looking to his Savior Jesus, Spafford let his faith spill out in ink on paper. He composed the words to the hymn, “It Is Well with My Soul.”

A friend of his, Philip Bliss, composed the music for the words.

This hymn has been a powerful expression of the peace that only God can give in the worst of times and the power of a quiet faith.

It is a perfect hymn for the Sunday of the Holy Innocents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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