

Love



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson, Senior Pastor, 314-601-1039
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The Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor Emeritus
Burnell L. Hackman, Director of Music Ministry
Christina Stackle, Director of Christian Education
Abby Reynolds, Deaconess Intern
Sara Watson, Director of Early Childhood

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

WELCOME TO PEACE! If you are a guest, please fill out the Visitor side of one of the attendance cards found in the pew rack. Let us know if you would like us to contact you. We are happy to have you worshipping with us today!

CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD, for the forgiveness of sins, are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar. Due to theological differences among Christians regarding beliefs about this Supper, only communicant members of an LCMS church are invited to the Lord's table. Ask a pastor if you have questions or concerns. Please register your taking of communion on your attendance card.

NEWS AND NOTES for this week can be found on the Commons Counter. Please take one home to stay informed about upcoming events at Peace Lutheran Church.

P = Pastor * = Stand △ = Stand for Trinitarian stanza **C** = Congregation

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Voluntary

*Opening Hymn

LSB 373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



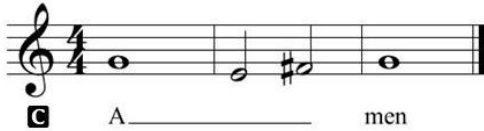
Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.
Tune: John Goss, 1800-80
Text and tune: Public domain

***Invocation**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

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



Baptism of Mia Linn Oswald (10:30)

LSB page 268

Daughter of Nathan P. and Ryley R. née Baragary Oswald

Sponsors: Adam C. Oswald and Alex J. Oswald

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

John 1:5, 9; 3:16; Psalm 36:5–9

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.”**

***Confession**

Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

C **And with Him is plentiful redemption.**

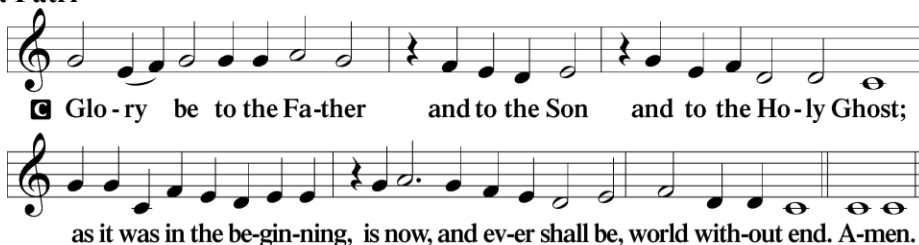
Silence for self-examination.

- P** Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some are known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

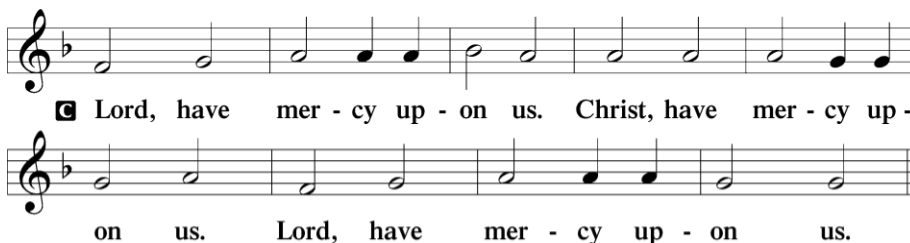
***Absolution**



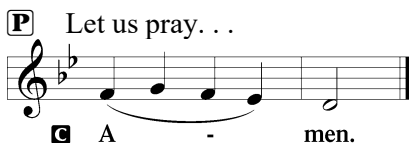
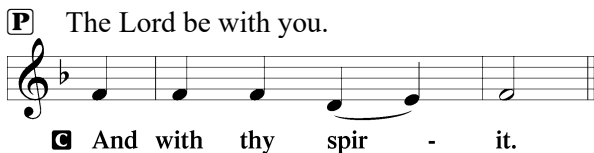
***Gloria Patri**



***Kyrle**



***Salutation and Collect of the Day**



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

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 beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Alleluia



*Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*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

LSB 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
 Δ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.
 Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Sermon

“It’s All About Jesus”

(Matthew 1:18-25)

Sermon Notes:

Gathering of the Offering Please fill out an attendance card and place in the offering plate

Anthem at the Offertory (10:30)

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
 So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
 You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

*The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

***Offertory**

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

***Prayer of the Church**

***Lord's Prayer** (Found on the inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

*Proper Preface

*Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.

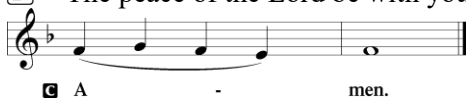


Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Words of Our Lord

*Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



*Agnus Dei

Musical notation for Agnus Dei. It consists of five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (half), E4 (half), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men." The lyrics are written below the staves, with "A - men." at the end of the fifth staff.

Distribution Hymns

LSB 376 Once in Royal David's City
LSB 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten
LSB 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

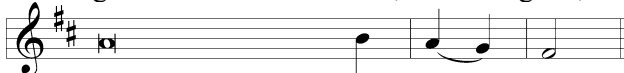
*Nunc Dimittis

Musical notation for Nunc Dimittis. It consists of three staves in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. The melody is: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4-D4 (half), C#4 (half), B3 (half), A3 (half). The lyrics are: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people," The lyrics are written below the staves.

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

*Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray. . .



C A - men.

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

*Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



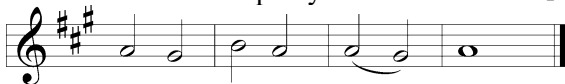
C Thanks be to God.

*Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Hymn to Depart

LSB 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines In - fant Light.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.
Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

*Silent Prayer

Closing Voluntary

Acknowledgments

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SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP:

Preacher: Pastor Robert Brown

Liturgists: Pastor Jon Furgeson, Sem. Kurtis Hankemeier

Organist: 5:00 & 8:00: Burnell Hackman; 9:20 & 10:30: Kendra Ruesler

Choir: Chancel Choir; Choir Director: Burnell Hackman, DMM

KFUO AM 850 Announcer/Audio Engineer/Video Engineer: W. Schuessler/R. Goodman/M. Wilke

Elders: 5:00: Alan Hopfer, Steve Kienstra; 8:00: Jeff Akers, John Hooss;

9:20: Aaron Baese, Mark Dowell; 10:30: Rick Goodman, John Roesch

Ushers: 5:00: Team #13 – Dean Seyfert, Captain; 8:00: Team #2 – Tom Johnson, Captain;

9:20: Team #12 – Chris Hosty, Captain; 10:30: Team #5 – Kyle Sandersfeld, Captain

Acolytes: 5:00: Ben Posadas, Aleah Jacobsmeyer; 8:00: Nicolette Henson;

10:30: Spencer Ahlemeyer, Lucas Rutledge

Altar Committee: John and Tracey Roesch