

Peace Lutheran Church

“Peace Through Christ”

Pastor Mike Schultze

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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

As We Gather We gather in church on this First Sunday after Christmas just a few days removed from the crowds of Christmas Eve. Fewer seem to gather on this day than on Christmas Eve, yet our trip to church today still brings us the amazing gift of our Savior, born to redeem us and to adopt us into the Body of Christ. Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, to present Jesus to the Lord, according to the traditional practice of their day. Taking our cues from Simeon and Anna today, we gather here to bless, praise, and thank God for the gift of Jesus.

Attention Visitors We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. This holy meal is intended for Christians who acknowledge their need of God’s forgiveness in their lives. The Bible teaches that Christ’s body and blood are received with the elements of bread and wine and that Christians need to examine themselves before receiving this holy meal. (1Cor. 10 & 11). This meal further expresses a unity of faith as we gather at one table to receive the assurance of God’s forgiveness through the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament. We welcome baptized Christians to commune with us, those who believe and confess this same faith and understanding of the sacrament and of the Christian life. Persons who desire to receive grape juice select from the darker glasses. If you have any further questions concerning the sacrament, please ask to speak to the Pastor.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

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INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 111:1-4, 9*

Pastor: Gathered in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit, people of God, praise the LORD!

People: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.

Pastor: Great are the works of the LORD.

People: Full of splendor and majesty is His work.

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.

People: He sent redemption to His people. Holy and awesome is His name!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

Pastor: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

People: We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

People: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

People: so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. You are no longer a slave, but sons and daughters. Therefore, by your faith in the Christ Child, all your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Gloria in Excelsis”



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. “A - men!” our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+THE WORD OF GOD+

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*
(“The nations shall see Your righteousness, and all kings Your glory.”)

(After the reading is read.)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING *Galatians 4:4–7*
(“When the time had fully come, God sent His Son.”)

(After the reading is read.)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22-40*
(Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let All Together Praise Our God”



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

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MESSAGE

“Now I’ve Seen Everything!”

Luke 2:22-40

Pastor Mike Schultze

CONFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

**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 worshipped 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**

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards”

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, whose love daily attends us and who blesses us in countless ways. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may worthily receive the bread and wine, that is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of the full salvation He has won for us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. Unite all who gather at Your table here with those who now feast at Your eternal table in the courts of heaven. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever as we join the angels and archangels and the whole host of heaven, singing:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was
 betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks,
 He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take,
 eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in
 remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the
 cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He
 gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is
 the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you
 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink
 it, in remembrance of Me."

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Please be seated)
HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease - less voice they cry: “Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.
Tune: French, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

“Once in Royal David's City”



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

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“Of the Father's Love Begotten”



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

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NUNC DIMITTIS (SIMEON'S SONG)



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Bless us throughout the days of this new year now upon us, and keep us firm in the true faith throughout all of our years so that, on the day of our Lord's returning, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 + give you peace.

People: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.



Refrain
Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: “To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!”

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Attendance: 12/24/23: 10am-74, 5pm-51, 7pm-105 12/25/23-46

Altar Flowers: Given to the glory of God by Sandi Stepp in celebration of Adley's birthday.

THIS WEEK AT PEACE December 31, 2023

Sunday: 10:00 am Traditional Communion Service

10:20 am Sunday School

1:30 pm New Life Christian Fellowship

4:00 pm Boy Scouts (FH)

Monday: Office closed

Tuesday: Office closed

Wednesday: 10:00 am Luther's Attic Volunteers

6:30 pm A.C.A. Women's Support Group (PH)

Thursday: ++++++

Friday: 6:30 pm Girl Scouts

Saturday: **9:30 am Blood Drive**

THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY, December 31, 2023

10:00 am ONE SERVICE

Elder: Al Bosman

Greeter: Connie Morris

Reader: David Hudnell

Acolyte: Marshall Denninger

Ushers: Glenn Benitz
Scott Ehlers

Altar Care: Linda Young

Cookie & Coffee Service: S. McCracken, C. Klittich, V. Alamillo

Organist: Karen Foote

Note: Kindly refrain from bringing food or beverages (other than water) into Worship.

THOSE WHO SERVE US NEXT SUNDAY January 7, 2024

9am

11am

Elder: Dave Schmidt

Dave Hutter

Greeter: Luci Pommers

Reader: Bill Young

Acolyte: Marshall Denninger

Lucas Williamson

Ushers: Gary Taylor

Mike McCracken

Karen Taylor

Tom La Jeunesse

Bill Young

Rick Poore

Altar Care: Linda Young

Cookie & Coffee Service: J. Morici, C. Stuart & S. McCracken,

Organist: Karen Foote

Jesus
is the Lamb
of God



Happy New Year



*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.
Psalm 65:11*

*You are invited to worship with us at our new 2024
worship times on Sundays beginning 1/7/24:
Traditional Service at **9am & 11am**
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 10:15am*