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"



3

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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

on us.

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**

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.

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People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Gloria in Excelsis"



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+ ("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. . . .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** 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.

5

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let All Together Praise Our God"



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"



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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:

10

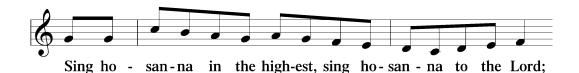
SANCTUS



■ 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.





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

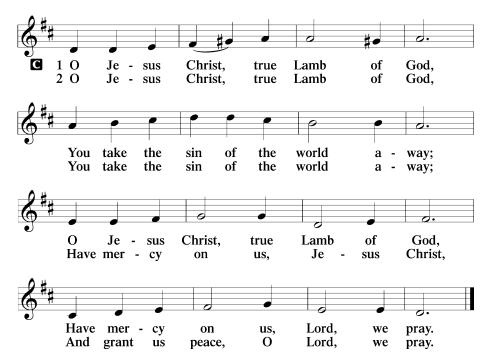
Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when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

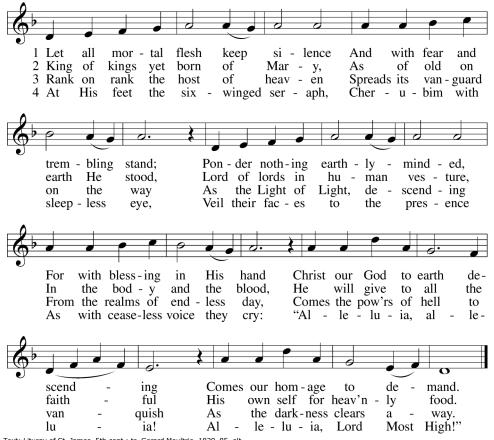
People: And also with you.





(Please be seated) **HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"



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"



Public domain

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



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NUNC DIMITTIS (SIMEON'S SONG)



15

A - men.

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

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.



17

CLOSING HYMN

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"





all

the

earth!"

And ry peace to 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

<u>Altar Flowers:</u> 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 BosmanGreeter: Connie MorrisReader: David HudnellAcolyte: 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 DenningerLucas WilliamsonUshers:Gary TaylorMike McCrackenKaren TaylorTom La Jeunesse

Bill Young Rick Poore

Altar Care: Linda Young

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

Organist: Karen Foote





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