

Rejoice!

*Thou shalt have
joy and gladness;
and many shall
rejoice at his birth.*

LUKE 1:14

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24, 2022
Peace Lutheran Church, MN

HYMN 376 (Maroon): Once in Royal David's City

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

5:00 McKimm family; 7:00pm Peterson family; 9:00pm Pfau family

We gather together on this holy night to celebrate the birth of God's one and only Son: Jesus, Emmanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Where there is despair, Jesus brings us hope—the hope of Christmas.

Psalm 33:20 "We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

As we gather to worship: **We light the candle of HOPE.** *(Light a blue candle.)*

Where there is war and discord, Jesus brings us peace—the peace of Christmas.

Psalm 29:11 "The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace."

As we gather to worship: **We light the candle of PEACE.** *(Light a blue candle.)*

Where there is sorrow, Jesus brings us joy—the Joy of Christmas.

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!"

As we gather to worship: **We light the candle of JOY.** *(Light the pink candle.)*

Where there is despair, Jesus brings us love—the love of Christmas.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

As we gather to worship: **We light the candle of LOVE.** *(Light a blue candle.)*

Where there is darkness, Jesus brings us light—the light of Christmas.

John 8:12 Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

As we gather to worship:

We light the Christ Candle. Jesus is the light of the world! *(Light the Christ candle.)*

Hymn 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Confession and Absolution

As we gather in joy and celebration, let us confess our sins
and receive the joy of being reconciled to God through His Son.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

We come this evening confessing our need and desire for the one true Light.

We are burdened by our sins and the darkness around us.

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, forgive us and enlighten us by Your grace that we may
forever praise and worship You, with the angels, and with all of creation.**

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your
sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7-16

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. (NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

▲ *If you are able, please stand for v. 5 and remain standing for the Gospel reading.*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (NIV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON – "The Gift of Christmas"

HYMN 370 What Child Is This?

MESSAGE "What Child Is This?" (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-25) Pastor Meyer

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – Special Music: 5:00pm Renae McKimm; 9:00pm Kevin Pfau. *Please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it along to others. As it is passed back to the center aisle, please take the opportunity to note the names of others seated in your pew.*

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Hymn 364 Away in a Manger

Hymn 366 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Candle Lighting Instructions

Please remain seated for the candle lighting.
Pastors and ushers will light the candle of the person nearest the aisle.
Each worshiper lights his candle from his neighbor's candle,
taking care to tip only the **unlighted** candle
so as to avoid dripping the hot wax.

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY (*Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1-3*)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.**

**See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.**

**Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn. (NIV)**
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

HYMN 363 Silent Night

**Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

(Extinguish your candles and hand them to an usher when you depart.)

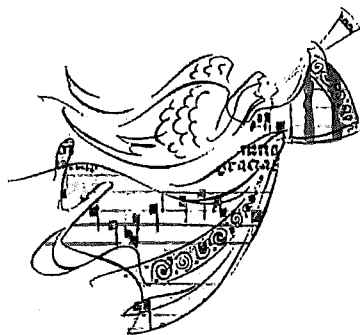
HYMN 387 Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing. And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found. Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love. And wonders, wonders of His love.





WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.

Christmas Day, December 25th at 9:00am in the Sanctuary, with communion
(Note: No services at 8:30am or 10:30am. No Bible class or Sunday School.)

Wednesday, December 28th – No noon Bible Study or Confirmation classes.

Saturday, December 31st at 6:30pm, with communion

Sunday, January 1st at 9:00am in the Sanctuary, with communion
(Note: No services at 8:30am or 10:30am. No Bible class or Sunday School.)

Liturgy: Copyright 2006 and 2022, Concordia Publishing House. Scripture quotations from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*.