

**Peace Lutheran Church – Christmas Day
December 25, 2024 + 9:00 a.m.**

WELCOME

THE INVOCATION *(based on John 3:16; 1:14; 15:26)*

- L: In the name of the Father,
C: **Who “so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son”.**
L: And of the Son,
C: **Who “became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”**
L: And of the Holy Spirit,
C: **Who is “the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father.”**
L: We are here to worship the living God who came to this earth to save us through His humble birth, perfect life, and sacrificial death.
C: **Jesus entered this world to live perfectly in our place, die for our sins, and rise in victory for us! Amen!**

OPENING HYMN

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

LSB 366 v. 1-4

CONFESSION

- L: On this Christmas Day, we prepare our hearts for Jesus by humbly confessing our sins to Him: Though Jesus came to bring joy and peace, our lives are often mired in sadness and pain because of our own sin and that of others.
C: **Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Fill us with Your Word and grace today and lead us as we live our lives as Your faithful disciples.**
(Time is given for reflection and confession of our sins.)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

- L: Behold, your Savior has come! "The Lord has comforted his people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." (Isaiah 52:9-10) As a called and ordained servant of Christ I announce to you the good news: All of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen. Receive our praise, O Jesus, for You are our joy and salvation. You are our Immanuel, God is with us! Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

L: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

LSB 368 v. 1-3

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 62:10-12

Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.

Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”

And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord;
and you shall be called Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:3-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

“O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362 v. 1-3

CHRISTMAS SERMON

“Unbreakable Hope”
1 Peter 1:10-12

Pastor Jarod Fenske

LUTHER'S EXPLANATION TO 2ND ARTICLE OF APOSTLES CREED

L: Together we confess our faith:

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This most certainly true.

OFFERING & PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord is among us.

C: We praise Him for His gracious presence.

L: We thank Him for His love.

C: We rejoice that He has come to be with us.

L: It is good to thank and praise our God today and all days, but this day we especially remember that the very Word of God became flesh in Jesus Christ to dwell among us.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: The peace which our newborn Lord brought to earth be with you always.

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376 v. 1-5

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

LSB 358 v. 1-7

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. We ask that You would strengthen us in our trust in You and our love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

L: May Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless you and keep you. May this little Child who took the cross on your behalf be gracious to you. May He who promises to be with you always look upon you with His favor and give you peace on this Christmas Day and always.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

v. 1