

Peace Lutheran Church
Last Sunday of the Church Year

Saturday, December 21, 2024 + 6:00 PM & Sunday, December 22, 2024 + 8:00 AM

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK - “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be Ruler in Israel.”
Micah 5:2

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386 v. 1-3

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Let us approach God in prayer knowing that Jesus brought true light into our world at His birth: We praise You, O God, for this wheel of time that numbers the days of preparation for Christ's coming again.

C: **As we light the fourth candle on this wreath, fill us with the peace that comes with knowing that Christ will be coming soon.**

L: Give us the light of Your grace so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may prepare our hearts to welcome Him with peace and join Him in His everlasting kingdom.

C: **We ask this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain. Amen.**

RESPONSE HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386 v. 4

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Lord of all, we confess that often we are poor examples of Christian love and faith to those around us.

C: **We are sorry for the times in our life we fail to show others our faith and trust in you.**

- L: Gracious God, the example we set for others often shows our shallow self-centeredness, rather than sacrificial love.
- C: **We are sorry for trusting in ourselves and the things of this world, rather than living by faith in You.**
- L: Merciful Savior, despite Your command to love others because You first loved us, we often display a lack of love, care, and concern for those around us.
- C: **We are sorry that instead of love, many people see our judgment, our anger, and our ill will toward others. Help us to be examples of faith!**
- L: God has rescued His people from their sins of thoughts, words, and actions. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He paid the punishment for these and all sins. To all who believe in Him, He grants pardon and forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of the Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357 v. 1,6,7

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

- L: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;
 then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.
 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.
When the Assyrian comes into our land
and treads in our palaces,
then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men;

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361 v. 1-4

SERMON “From a Little Town Comes a Great Ruler”
Micah 5:2-5a

Pastor Dave Karolus

NICENE CREED

OFFERING & HYMN “What Child Is This”

LSB 370 v. 1-3

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

L: The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366 v. 3