

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to Peace – your presence here enriches our community. On this First Sunday after Christmas we follow the arc of the story of Christ's incarnation, and through hymns and carols reflect on its meaning for us.

We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

+ GATHERING +

P – Presider C – Congregation A – Assisting Minister L - Lector ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal WOV – With One Voice LBW – Lutheran Book of Worship

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. Jeanine Yeager

ELW #288

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

- Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Christ is born: Alleluia!The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Almighty and Altender God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

2

Heidi Eilers

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

Kathleen Keyes

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW #272

- Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came,
 a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love a right, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

THIRD READING: John 1:1-14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

4

Of the Father's Love Begotten

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:21-35

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

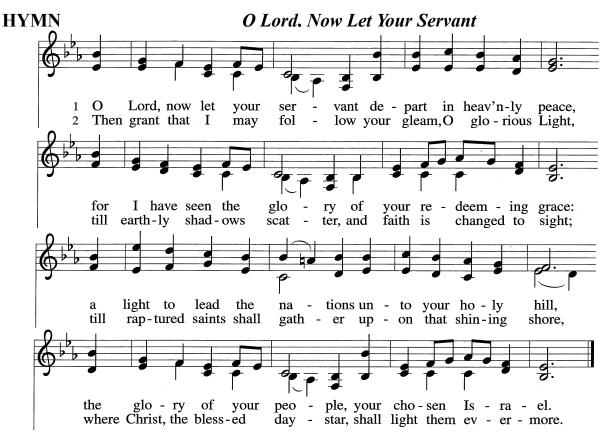
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Julie Ward



FIFTH READING: Luke 2:36-40

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

3

Of the Father's Love Begotten

- This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.
- 4 Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore. Amen

ELW #295, vs. 3-5

ELW #313

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. Their faithful adherence to the law provided a healthy environment for the young Jesus to grow into spiritual maturity.

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

L The Word of the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY

C Thanks be to God.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Α Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

Α Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

When all petitions have been offered:

- Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. Ρ
- С Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

- Ρ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- С And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure Tithely Giving Page via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!

OFFERTORY VERSE

O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray; 1 cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- C God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- The Lord be with you. Р
- C And also with you.
- Lift up your hearts. Р
- We lift them up to the Lord. C
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Р
- С It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ELW #279



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, compassionate and vulnerable God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with Mary who gave you birth, and Joseph who nurtured your life; with Shepherds who told of your coming and Magi who followed your star, With the whole church on Earth, all creation, and all the company of heaven, We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

[TUNE: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, ELW #270]

✓ Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored. O how blest is he who comes, in the holy name of God. Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angles sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.
- P In the night he was handed over to death, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
- C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.
- P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- C This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.
- P Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, and his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.
 By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son, through whom all glory and honor is yours, Almighty and Altender God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ecumenical)

- P In Jesus we are bold to pray:
- C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Joy to the World! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.
- C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

WOV #638



ELW #487

What Feast of Love

- What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous work is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven. Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!
- What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of god is given!

When all have finished communing:

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

- P May the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen and unite us in the shelter of God's grace.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray. God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. In Jesus' name.
- C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

- P God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

SENDING Refrain:

> Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- **C** Peace to God's people on earth!
- A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World!

+ + +

arr. John Carter

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Jon Lackey, Minister of Music
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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Presider	Rev. Paul Winterstein
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Guest Pianist	Janet Cruse
Liturgical Assistant	Heidi Eilers, Kathleen Keyes
Acolyte	Mateo Leon Stephens
Lector	Heidi Eilers
Children's Sermon	Julie Ward
Greeters	Ruth Eilers, Jean Sides
Ushers	Barbara Hillier, Kristin Gimelli Hemme
Altar Care	Will & Ben Ward
Communion Assistants	Sonja Outlaw, Will Ward
Coffee Server	WELCA
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Paul Bliss
Counters	Kathleen Keyes, Erika Stephens
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

During this final month day of the year we are striving to achieve a balance between income and expenses. Year-end gifts will help us to achieve that goal. Thank you for your partnership.

Offering Income received December 2023
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12/03/23	\$ 2,417.00
12/10/23	\$ 1,982.39
12/17/23	\$ 3,371.00
12/24/23	\$ 3,179.10

\$ 3,770.41 (Does not include last 2 weeks) Electronic Total

\$14,719.90

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community,

and internationally through the ELCA.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Some of those oh-so-soft sweaters under your tree this Christmas might, when washed, do something you'd never want them to do – add microplastics to our oceans. Tiny polyester and acrylic threads, known as microfibers, have contributed 35% of the microplastic pollution in the world's oceans, making textiles the largest known source of marine microplastic pollution. About 2.2 million tons of microfibers enter the ocean every year. But you can stop them. Before you wash synthetic fabrics, bag them! Special laundry bags like Guppyfriend (available from REI) filter out microfibers so you can dispose of them properly. Learn more about how clothing impacts Creation on our website at https://www.peacelutheranseattle.org/?p=5528.

Pray for Creation: We pray that in the coming year we will prioritize actions that contribute to the well-being of all our kinship on the Earth.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2023

Sunday, January 28, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please add it to your calendar! Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- JANUARY 2 All annual reports from Peace ministries, committees, and task forces are due in the church office (electronic form, please!)
- JANUARY 14 Draft Budget review following worship (if needed).
- JANUARY 16 Church Council meeting to finalize Annual Meeting agenda and draft budget.
- JANUARY 21 Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available.
- JANUARY 28 Annual Meeting following worship.

ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL COMING UP

Would you like to serve as a member of our congregation's Church Council? There are leadership positions on the Council opening up in January. The council meets once a month to support our ongoing mission, including the discussion of budgets, policies, and the operations of the church. Church council members are the governing body of the church in between congregational meetings. They work as liaisons between the council and all the church committees and ministry teams. The council is comprised of a group of individuals who work hard to maintain a positive, Christian experience for everyone who attends Peace Lutheran Church. We need you! If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Vicki Martinez, Erika Stephens, or Chris Kindem. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 28th. There is also an opening in the Audit Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your 2023 annual reports to the office in digital form by Tuesday, January 2nd.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Cay Bell; Joyce Bitner; Mary Brocker; Jan Burt; Melanie Coulson; Heidi Coy; Karl Coy; Larry Cruse; Marsha Davis; Laura Dwyer; Joe Flint; Marge Flint; William Gerhardt; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Donna Heiland; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Ken Keyes; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Pete McIntyre; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Penelope Grace; Michelle

Pierce; Rachel; Dana Rice; Irma Runge; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Jan Madsen

<u>PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST</u> We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and



brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual

orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

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