

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 25, 2021

MEET US

Our family is loved by Christ and we love each other. We hold firmly to God's Word of truth, which convicts us of our sin and comforts us with God's forgiveness in Christ. We embrace the rich heritage of hymns and liturgy that has guided the worship of the Church for generations. We are passionate about Christian education, wanting young and old to grow in their knowledge of God's Word. As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), we enjoy fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

TODAY'S WORSHIP

John reveals a mystery concerning the child born of Mary. The Word which became flesh and dwelt among us, also was God and was with God in the beginning. However impossible it may seem, we know that this child in the manger is God and that He was born to bring light and life to us living in the darkness of sin. This morning we consider this truth: God Was Born for You.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Restrooms are located to the right as you leave the sanctuary and are equipped with child changing tables.

Parent Room is located on the left as you exit the sanctuary doors. This room is equipped with a livestream of the service.

For the hearing impaired, an induction loop is provided. Just switch your hearing aid to "T".

For other special needs or questions, our ushers are here to assist you. Don't hesitate to ask.



DIVINE SERVICE

WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful | ELH 133

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the Creator of Light,
In the name of the Son, the Light of the world,
In the name of the Holy Spirit, the One who enlightens our hearts.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

We have seen His star in the east
And have come to worship Him.

But we come with tainted lives and empty hands.

O Christ Child in the manger, we are not worthy to bow before You. We have sinned against You in our desires, words, and actions. We do not deserve to be called Your brothers and sisters. Yet we have longed for Your coming and need Your perfect life and innocent death to cover our multitude of sins. Have mercy on us.

"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. Today, in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." It is in His stead and by His command, that I, a called servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS RESPONSES

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 98:1

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98:2-3

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? *Malachi 3:2*
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? *Psalms 130:3*

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. *Psalms 85:4,7*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.
Luke 1:68

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. *Luke 1:46-47*

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to
redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. *Galatians 4:4-5*

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the
glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest! *Luke 2:10,11,14*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High | ELH 116

PRAYER

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

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Moses and God's Goodness | Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

¹⁸Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹The Lord said, "I will make all my
goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord in your presence. I
will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show
mercy." ²⁰He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live." ²¹The Lord
also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²²It will
happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you
with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my
back. But my face will not be seen."... ^{34:5}The Lord came down in the cloud. He took his stand
there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶The Lord passed by in front of him
and proclaimed: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger,
and overflowing with mercy and truth, ⁷maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and

rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

EPISTLE READING

Nothing Can Spare Us From God's Love | Romans 8:31-32

³¹What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³²Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

ADULT CHOIR

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light | J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning.

Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.

This child now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,

The pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Original chorale melody by Johann Schop, 1641 *Himmlische Lieder*;
reharmonized for *The Christmas Oratorio* by J.S. Bach

GOSPEL READING

Christ, the Word, Becomes Flesh | John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. ⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.'" ¹⁶For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | ELH 123:1-5, 13-15

Verses 1-3 – All

Verse 4 – Men

Verse 5 – Women

Verses 13-15 – All

EXHORDIUM¹

EXHORIDUM HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn | ELH 142

SERMON

God Was Born for You! | John 1:1-18

WE GIVE THANKS

CONFESSION OF FAITH – FORMULA OF CONCORD, ARTICLE VIII

We believe, teach, and confess that although the Son of God is a separate, distinct, and complete divine person and therefore has been from all eternity true, essential, and perfect God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, yet, when the time had fully come, he took the human nature into the unity of his person, not in such a manner that there are now two persons or two Christs, but in such a way that Christ Jesus is henceforth in *one* person simultaneously true eternal God, born of the Father from eternity, and also a true man, born of the most blessed Virgin Mary, as it is written, "From them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!"

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – CHRISTMAS

On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling Your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending Your Son to be our Savior, we give You our heartfelt thanks and praise.

Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though He is the all-powerful Lord of all, He is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the

¹ The Exordium is an "introduction" for the festival day. This is a tradition of Norwegian Lutherans that dates to the 16th century.

unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to You, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,
Hal - low - ed be Thy name, Thy king - dom come, Thy will
be done on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai -
- ly bread; And for - give us our tres - pass - es, as
we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us; And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv - er us from e - vil. For Thine is the
king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er.
A - - - - - men.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

Joy to the World | ELH 138

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Adult Choir

Katie Hartwig | Director

Lexi Fosburgh | Accompanist

Organist

Crystal Foslien

Ushers

Matt Bindert & Marc Flygare

For information concerning our news & notes, visit peacemankato.com/news

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Friday - Christmas Eve	
Divine Service with Candlelight	4:00pm 6:00pm
Saturday - Christmas Day	
Divine Service	9:00am
Sunday	
Divine Service with Holy Communion	8:15am 10:30am
Friday - New Year's Eve	
Divine Service with Holy Communion	6:00pm
Sunday	
Divine Service	8:15am 10:30am

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Pastors Tim Hartwig & Matt Moldstad