

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 20, 2023

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

Good looks and beautiful, flowing hair can only get you so far. They got Absalom caught in a tree and put to death for his rebellion. Yet despite his sin, David still loved his son and would have done anything to spare him. We have rebelled against God. Incredibly, God doesn't desire our destruction, but our salvation. To that end, God sent forth His Son, the true Son of David.

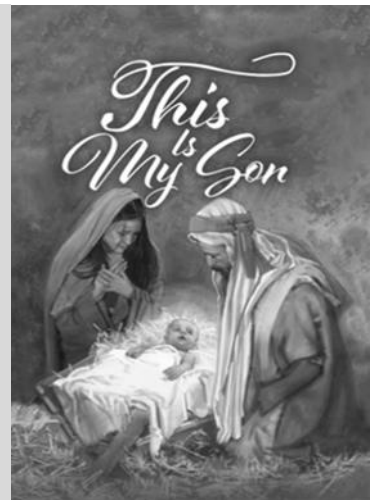
VISITOR INFORMATION

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

VESPERS
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WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - ADVENT 3

We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

HYMN

Behold a Branch is Growing | ELH 121:1,2,5

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

VERSICLES

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

The first versicle consists of two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, with the lyrics "And my mouth shall show forth Your praise." written below the notes.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The second versicle consists of two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, with the lyrics "Make haste to help me, O Lord." written below the notes.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly

The third versicle consists of two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, with the lyrics "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly" written below the notes.

Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ev - er shall be: for -

The fourth versicle consists of two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, with the lyrics "Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ev - er shall be: for -" written below the notes.

ev - er - more. A - men.

The fifth versicle consists of two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, with the lyrics "ev - er - more. A - men." written below the notes.

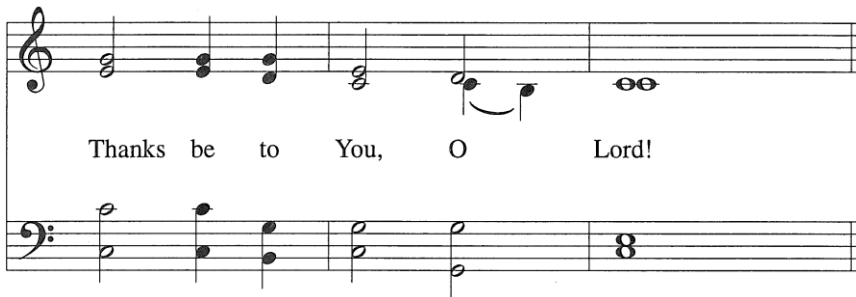
FIRST READING

Live as Children Loved by God | Ephesians 5:1-10

Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But do not let sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, or greed even be mentioned among you, as is proper for saints. ⁴Obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking are also out of place. Instead, give thanks. ⁵Certainly you are aware of this: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, who is God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. ⁷So do not share in what they do. ⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

RESPONSORY

O Lord, have mercy upon us.



GOSPEL

Christ Comes Both as the Son of David & the Son of God | Matthew 22:41-46

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: ⁴²“What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The Son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “Then how can David in the Spirit call him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’?” ⁴⁵“So if David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”⁴⁶ No one was able to answer him a word, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN

In This Precious Baby Boy | Clark & Kocher

1 In this pre - cious ba - by boy, We are giv - en peace and joy.
 2 God's own chil - dren, we have strayed, Con - stant - ly have dis - o - beyed
 3 Through this ba - by in the hay, God has giv - en us the Way

By the Spir - it, hope is won— Mar - y bore the Fa - ther's Son.
 In the gar - den, in the sand, Through the riv - er, in the Land.
 To in - her - it life a - bove, Res - cued by His per - fect love.

Son of God and Son of Man: He ful - fills the ho - ly plan.
 But the Child who takes our place: Bears the cross to earn us grace.
 In this Child, we all may be Chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.

“In This Precious Baby Boy”

Words by Lisa M. Clark

Music by Conrad Kocher

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Music: Public domain.

SERMON

This is My Son – Absalom, the Son of David | 2 Samuel 18:24-33

David was sitting between the inner and outer gates of the city. The watchman went up onto the roof of the gatehouse next to the wall. While he was standing watch, he saw a man running all by himself. ²⁵ The watchman called out and told the king. The king said, “If he is alone, he is bringing good news.” The man kept coming and got closer. ²⁶ Then the watchman saw another man running. The watchman called down to the gatekeeper, “Look! There is another man running all by himself!” The king said, “This one also is bringing good news.” ²⁷ The watchman said, “The way the first man is running looks like the way Ahima’az son of Zadok runs.” The king said, “He is a good man. He is coming with good news.”

28 Ahima'az called out to the king, "Peace." Then he bowed down to the king with his face to the ground and said, "Blessed is the LORD your God, who delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." 29 The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahima'az said, "I saw a great uproar at the time when Joab sent the other servant of the king and me, your servant. I do not know what it was about." 30 The king said, "Step aside. Stay here." So he stepped aside and just stood there. 31 The Cushite arrived and said, "There is good news for my lord the king, because the LORD has delivered you this day from the power of all who rose up against you." 32 The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" The Cushite said, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you with evil intentions be like that young man." 33 The king was shocked. He went up to the room over the gatehouse. As he was going, he wept and said, "My son Absalom, my son, my son! O Absalom, I wish I had died instead of you. O Absalom, my son, my son."

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERING & FREINDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

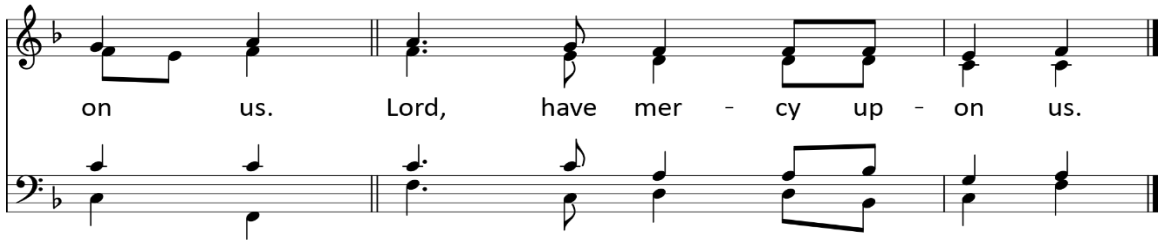
VERSICLE

Let my prayers rise before You as incense:

And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.



on us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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-against 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 e-ver.
 A - - - men.

COLLECT

Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and

temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

Musical notation for the word "Amen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, C5, and ending on a whole note chord of G4-B4-D5. The bass staff has a bass line starting on G2, moving to A2, B2, C3, and ending on a whole note chord of G2-B2-D3. The lyrics "A - men." are written below the treble staff.

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Thanks be to God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and ending on a whole note chord of G4-B4-D5. The bass staff has a bass line starting on G2, moving to A2, B2, and ending on a whole note chord of G2-B2-D3. The lyrics "Thanks be to God." are written below the treble staff.

BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Musical notation for the word "Amen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, C5, and ending on a whole note chord of G4-B4-D5. The bass staff has a bass line starting on G2, moving to A2, B2, and ending on a whole note chord of G2-B2-D3. The lyrics "A - men." are written below the treble staff.

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel | ELH 110:5-7

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Pianist

Brittany Cordes

Pre-Service Music

Mike Madson | Guitar

Sarah Hartwig | Violin

Lilli Olsen | Piano

Ushers

Doyle Holbird & Chris Harstad

Supper

Peace Group 3