

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024



Our Mission:

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ”

Our Message:

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

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Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

Sing! Shout! Rejoice! Exult! A string of ecstatic commands infused with an incomparable promise—the Lord has taken away the judgments against you! The Gospel in the flesh of Jesus is at hand. Human anxiousness subsides as God’s peace engulfs the hearts, minds, emotions, and wisdom of men. As the reign of Jesus is revealed, we are privileged to witness holy healing, cleansing, resurrecting, and preaching. Christ alone forgives and redeems us.

Order of Service:

Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.

Opening Hymn
Confession and Absolution

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
(LSB p. 151)

Service of the Word

(LSB p.152-160)

Introit

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

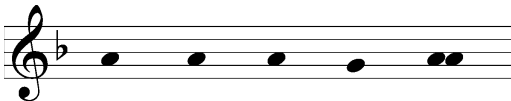
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie

(LSB p.152)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20

Zephaniah 3:14–20

- ¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
- ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
- ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–35

Luke 7:18–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



☐ Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look

at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

(p. 158)

Sit

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Sermon

“The Scandal of the Gospel”

Luke 7:18-35

Offering

Offertory

(p. 159-160)

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, making known His saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them, especially *Mel and Barb Alsobrooks*. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, providing for them when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our republic in its need, that abandoning all anxiety, we would instead, by prayer and thanksgiving, make our requests known to God; for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those in need, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

(p. 160-166)

Distribution Hymns

- 803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
 354 Arise, O Christian People
 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Post-Communion Canticle	Nunc Dimittis	(LSB p. 165)
Post-Communion Collect		(LSB p. 166)
Benediction		(LSB p. 166)
Closing Hymn	333 Once He Came in Blessing	