

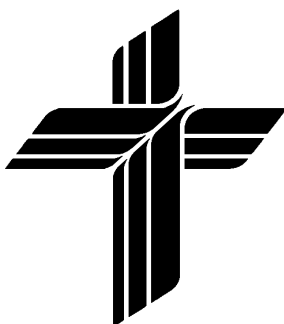
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Children’s Christmas Program
December 22, 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”

Pastor Peter Adelsen

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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

Upon the diminutive Bethlehem town enters the strength of the Lord, and His name is Jesus. Christ comes as a frail infant to accomplish the will of His Father in heaven—to mature and become the divine sacrificial offering for sinners. He is the innocent to be slain. We are the guilty to be acquitted by His mercy. There can be no greater confession for the whole church but to resonate with Mary, “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Order of Service:

Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.

Opening Hymn 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Confession and Absolution

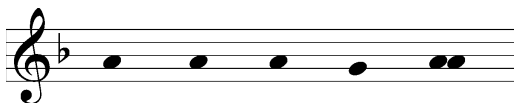
(LSB p. 151)

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:6, adapted

- P** To us . . .
C a child is born!
P To us . . .
C a son is given!
P His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God,**
P Everlasting Father,
C **Prince of Peace.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P 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 A - men.

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 1:39–56

Luke 1:39–56

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “God Makes the Impossible, Possible”

Luke 1:39-56

Sunday School Christmas Service

+ Immanuel, God with Us +

Reading

Welcome to Our World (Sunday School)

Congregational Hymn: Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (LSB 338)

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

+ Wonderful Counselor +

Reading

Recitation

Emmanuel (Sunday School)

+ Mighty God +

Reading

Recitation

Congregational Hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come (LSB 332, stanzas 1, 4)

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

+ Everlasting Father +

Reading

Recitation

Go Tell It on the Mountain (Sunday School)

+ Prince of Peace +

Reading

Recitation

Congregational Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (LSB 357, 1-4)

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

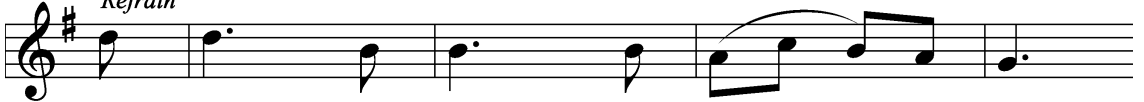


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Responsive Reading

- P** To us a child is born,
- C** to us a son is given.

- P** Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor,
- C** our **Mighty God**,
- P** the Everlasting Father,
- C** the **Prince of Peace**. Thanks be to God!

Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Heavenly Father, thank You for fulfilling Your promise to send Your Son to be our Savior. You have given us the best gift of all: the Child in the manger who came to live, die, and rise again for us! In His name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P** O Lord, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Mighty God, You have done great things for us, looking upon our humble estate and exalting us to be Your children for Jesus' sake. Preserve us by Your Holy Word, that we would properly fear Your name and rejoice in it all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly the King of the nations and their desire. He who formed us of clay took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

G Amen.

Offering

Offertory (p. 159-160)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160-166)

Distribution Hymns

333 Once He Came in Blessing

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

412 The People That That in Darkness Sat

Post-Communion Canticle Nunc Dimittis (LSB p. 165)

Post-Communion Collect (LSB p. 166)

Benediction (LSB p. 166)

Closing Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 5-7, 1)

Prince of Peace News and Notes for December 22, 2024

Please fill out a registration card today and leave it on the table in the back of the sanctuary or put it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Serving the Lord and One Another Today: *Ushers:* Willie & Leatta Danielson; *Greeters:* POP Family; *Song leader:* Sarah Kolander; *Money Counters:* Ona Childs & Chris Leis.

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Ushers:* Dan & Kari Moen; *Greeters:* Mike & Carolyn Dosland; *Song leader:* Holly Ford; *Money Counters:* Barb Alsobrooks & Barb Hinds.

Do you have an announcement that you want to share with the Congregation? Send it to office@wspop.org by the end of the day on Tuesday and it will be printed in this week's bulletin. You can also publish key information in the newsletter by submitting it the same way. Newsletter information is due by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the last Sunday.

Our Response to God's Gifts

<p>Attendance last Sunday and Monday: 41 Weekly Budget Need: \$3703.36 December 15 offering: \$4195.00 Special Gifts: 2023 Year Total/Missions: \$11,604.26</p>

Advent Midweek Evening Prayer: The theme for Wednesday is “Everlasting Father”—a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. We will learn why Jesus is called “Father” even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. We will also learn why Jesus is called “Everlasting.” Finally, we will learn why Jesus’ title “Everlasting Father” is such a great comfort to us—especially when we face trials or suffering in this fallen world. Join us Wednesday for Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Meal is at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: We will not be meeting for Bible study on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but please join us again on Wednesday, December 8 at 9:30 a.m.!

Christmas Eve – Lessons and Carols: Come and worship the newborn King on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – Divine Service: Come and worship the newborn King with the gift of the Sacrament of the Altar on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) at 9 a.m.!

New Years' Day – Divine Service: Come and worship the newborn King as we remember the day He was given the name Jesus on Jan. 1 at 9 a.m.! Brunch follows at Features in West Salem!

Sounding the Scriptures POPcast: Faith comes by hearing! POP sermons are now available to listen to at <http://wspop.org/sermons---2024.html> via Spotify. Download the Spotify app and check out this link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/27gLS12vjGx23YjuAM3XLH>

Scrip Sales – Scrip gift cards are available for purchase after our worship service in the fellowship hall.

Altar Flowers – There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring flowers for the altar.

Stewardship Thoughts: Luke 1:45 – “**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.**” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord’s own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord’s commands in the face of the world’s anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

Life Thought from Lutherans for Life: whether the hamlet of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) or gestating babies (Luke 1:41-44), the God of Christmas loves to elevate what seems insignificant. Indeed, the heart of the Gospel consists in exalting those of humble estate (Luke 1:52). Rejoicing in the Lord who creates, redeems, and calls regardless of size, skills, or circumstances, the sanctity of life delights to declare nothing less!