

# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church



**First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024**

*Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community...*

*Be at Peace.*



In Person and Online Worship  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024

**PRELUDE**

Played by Liz Mun

**WELCOME**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*A brief silence*

God of mercy,

**C** we confess that we have sinned.  
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.  
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

**P** God of might,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

**P** God in our midst,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

- P A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through ☩ Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.
- C **Amen.**

## **ADVENT WREATH**

### **First Week of Advent**

- A Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.
- As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.
- O house of Jacob, come,
- C **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## GREETING

**P** 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33 : 14—16

read by Norm Philion

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 25 : 1—10 (Read responsively by whole verse.)

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3 : 9—13

read by Norm Philion

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 21 : 25—36**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Doug Ryniewicz

*Please stand as you are able*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS**

**A** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

**A** God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

**A** God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## **SHARING PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who faithfully continues to support Peace's ministries. To give online, please use the [online giving portal](#). If you wish to give by cash or check, please put your offering in the plate.

**Special Offering.** Each month, Peace designates a recipient of our special offering. Individuals may choose to give a special gift - over and above their usual offering to Peace - in support of a particular ministry.



**November's Special Offering is Lutheran World Relief:** Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. LWR works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality. LWR provides aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. LWR partners with communities to build and grow rural economies. LWR's goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

The King Shall Come  
Trevor Thomson

Sung by Ben Howard

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together  
C **Creator God,**  
**you made the whole world,**  
**even the farthest stars,**  
**and you draw near to feed us.**  
**We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.**  
**Strengthen us with this food**  
**that we may live in expectation**  
**for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*For those worshiping in person: We will commune using continuous distribution in one station. The ushers will indicate when it is your turn. Please be seated until then. You will come forward and receive bread. Then you will dip it in the cup. One cup has red wine; the other has white grape juice. All bread is gluten free.*

*For those worshiping online: The Pastor will invite you to partake of communion at the beginning of the meal before all are served in person. If you are with someone, please serve one another. If you are physically alone, you may serve yourself trusting these words: The Body of Christ given for you and The Blood of Christ shed for you.*

**P** This is God's table. All are welcome here.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“The King Shall Come”  
*arr. Nancy A. Norman*

Played by Bells of Peace

*Please stand as you are able.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P** Let us pray,

**C** **Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## MISSION MOMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

## BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING SONG

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” (ELW 435)

all verses



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:  
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

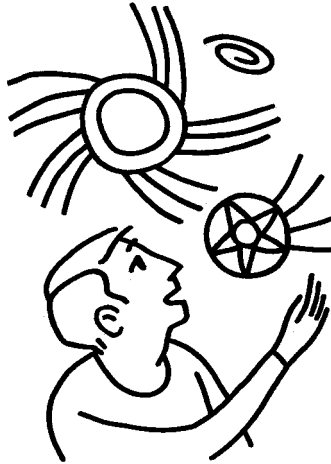
C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Played by Liz Mun

**The Worship has ended. The Service begins.**

***Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.***



## **Don't Wait for the Kingdom — See It**

As Advent begins, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming to the world in the light of a text that promises his final coming. We, like the gospel writer, Luke, live in the time between these two "advents" of Jesus. Today's gospel gives us guidance on how to live faithfully as we wait for Jesus to return. However, in this in-between time, it is easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the promises of Jesus. Daily tasks and routines can lull us into apathy. Ease and success can allow us to ignore our spiritual needs. Struggles, setbacks, and disappointments can cause us to lose hope and fall into despair. But Jesus tells us we should not feel beaten down or defeated by the struggles of this world, but instead "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

Jesus goes on to say that there will be signs, signs of new life and growth, such as the sprouting of a leaf on a fig tree in the summertime. These signs are perceptible to us here and now. These signs help us know that God's kingdom is coming. In fact, they remind us that in Jesus, God's kingdom has already come near, and Jesus words will not pass away until this kingdom has fully come. We should live with our eyes focused on today's signs that demonstrate God's reign and trust that Jesus' redemption of the world will one day be complete.



## Our Prayers:

- Prayers of mental and spiritual healing for our neighbor Tom...
- Prayers of support and love for the Holcomb-Wescott family after the death of Jonathan Holcomb's grandfather...
- Prayers for Rhonda W. as she faces financial uncertainty...
- Prayers of healing for Ashley McGrady following a recent cancer diagnosis and preceding a major surgery...
- Prayers of healing and sustaining love for Michael and his family as they deal with a recent diagnosis...
- Prayers for Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell who is asking for healing...
- Prayers of comfort, strength and healing for Terry Hannon as she undergoes treatment for cancerous tissue of her tongue...
- Prayers for Katelynn Reighard as she is treated for stage four lung cancer...
- Prayers of peace for Daniel Crabtree...
- Prayers for Peace's search for a Minister of Children, Youth, and Families...
- Prayers of recovery and protection for those who face hurricane's Helene and Milton...
- Prayers of healing for our nation and for a spirit of truth and civility among all elected officials, those running for office, and those who follow political campaigns...
- Prayers for the people of Ukraine that they may once again enjoy the freedom, democracy, and economic independence that they have been focused on since their independence...
- Prayers for the many citizens of Russia that are struggling under the oppression, misinformation, and depletion of their human and material resources under the authoritarian regime they have...
- Prayers for Gaza and Israel, Palestinians and Jews and all across the world impacted by the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas...
- Prayers for peace, support, and resilience for the people of Sudan and Haiti, who are living with conflict and hunger...
- For all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer...
- For our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love...

## Peace Notes

**Deck the Halls at Peace:** Get ready to deck the halls! Please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 30 at 9am when we'll decorate the church for Christmas. The more help we have, the more quickly we'll have everything set up! Folks who can't make it on November 30 are welcome to put any finishing touches up on Saturday, December 7. We'll want everything ready by the Advent Festival on Sunday, December 8.

**Peace's Advent Caroling and Arts Festival:** Mark your calendars for December 8th! Peace Lutheran Church is excited to host our Advent Caroling and Arts Festival, featuring selections from Handel's The Messiah, along with hymns and performances by various music groups at Peace playing Advent music. Artists are invited to share and sell their art work as a part of the festival. Reach out to the church office if you have questions. All are welcome.

**With Open Arms @ Mar-Lu-Ridge:** Join Mar-Lu-Ridge December 1st, 1-4 p.m., in Agape Hall, for their Family Advent Gathering! We will make wreaths, have crafts for all ages, and share a community meal at 3 p.m. We will end the day with a blessing of Ridge Inn, as the renovation work begins the next day! [RSVP Here](#). If you are interested in attending but need transpiration assistance, or if you are willing to offer assistance, [email the church office](#).

## Synod Events

**Ordination of Julie Jackson:** You are invited to the Ordination of Julie Jackson, Administrative Assistant for Mobility & Candidacy in the Metro D.C. Synod, on **Saturday, November 23**, at 2:00 PM. Gather at the Church of the Abiding Presence on the Gettysburg Campus of [United Lutheran Seminary](#). Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process and the Color of the Day is red.

**Prayer and Conversion w/ Bishop Ortiz:** As we leave election season and enter into Advent there is a need for time of prayer and processing. Bishop Ortiz invites all rostered ministers into a prayer and conversation time on Thursday, December 5, 2024. We have created two time slots to allow for participation of as many rostered ministers as would like to attend. You are welcome to come to one or both.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[METRODCELCA.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS](https://METRODCELCA.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS)

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

**PEACE WARMLY WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE, NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**WORSHIPPING WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME?** We receive you as a gift from God. Please email [info@sharingpeace.org](mailto:info@sharingpeace.org) to be added to the weekly e-news. Also, look for a yellow welcome folder by the entrance.

**THIS SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED.** If you prefer never to appear on camera, let an usher know and they will seat you in an off-camera area.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** We have a staffed nursery available as well; please ask an usher to direct you. The nursery attendants will bring kids to the sanctuary for the Time for Children.

*Thanks to all who help lead worship. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact [info@sharingpeace.org](mailto:info@sharingpeace.org)*

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP	TODAY	Dec. 8, 2024
Tech and Sound	Stu Whitehead, Andrew Tlusty	Andrew Tlusty
Lector	Norm Philion	Evan Manchester
Acolyte		
Assisting Minister	Rose Stillwell	
Altar Care	Mary Downs	Karen Olmsted
Ushers	Ardell Hoveskeland, Michael Stumpf	
Tellers	Tammy Heppner	Ray Marquardt

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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To make an online gift, please scan the code or text (703) 215-1412

Office hours:  
Monday and Friday, 10am to 2pm  
Please send announcements to [info@sharingpeace.org](mailto:info@sharingpeace.org) by 9am Wednesday.



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