



## **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
St. Louis, Missouri 63125-5409  
314-892-5610 [peacelutheranstl.org](http://peacelutheranstl.org)

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 8:00, 9:20, & 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson, Senior Pastor, 314-601-1039

Rev. Robert M. Brown, Associate Pastor, 618-580-8817

The Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor Emeritus

Burnell L. Hackman, Director of Music Ministry

Christina Stackle, Director of Christian Education

Sue Velten, Director of Early Childhood

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## DECEMBER 24, 2023

### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Divine Service, Setting Three

**P** = Pastor

\* = Stand

**C** = Congregation

WELCOME TO PEACE! If you are a guest, please fill out the Visitor side of one of the attendance cards found in the pew rack. Let us know if you would like us to contact you. We are happy to have you worshipping with us today!

#### Opening Voluntary

(8:00 and 9:20)

*Danish Star Carol*

DEJIL ER DEN HUMMEL BLAA/Lee J. Afdahl

#### \*Opening Hymn

LSB 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly,  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets',  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

**\*Invocation**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C** A \_\_\_\_\_ men

**\*Opening Sentences**

*Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

**P** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

**C** **Wait for the LORD and keep His way.**

**P** The LORD waits to be gracious to you.

**C** **He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.**

**P** For the LORD is a God of justice;

**C** **Blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

**\*Confession and Absolution**

**P** So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:

**C** **Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.**

**P** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

**C** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C** A \_\_\_\_\_ men.

**\*Hymn Of Praise**

**LSB 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder**



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

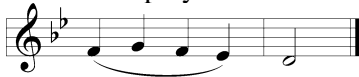
**\*Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. . .



**G** A - men.

**Old Testament Reading**

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

<sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I

took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle

*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### \*Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### \*Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26–38*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### \*Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

### \*Hymn of The Day

### LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



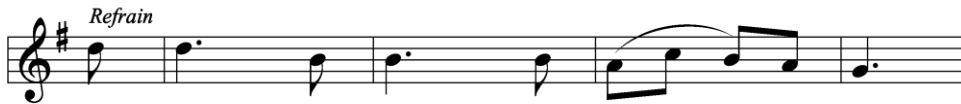
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
 clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Sermon

“God’s Eternal Dwelling Place”

(Luke 1:26-38)

Sermon Notes:

**Gathering of the Offering** *Please fill out an attendance card and place in the offering plate*

**Offertory Anthem**

(8:00 and 9:20) *Puer Nobis (What Star Is This?)*

PUER NOBIS/Michael Mazzatenta

(10:30) *Prepare the Royal Highway*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN/Hopson

**\*Offertory**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

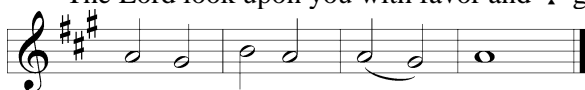
**\*Prayer of the Church**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**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.

**\*Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

**\*Hymn to Depart**

**LSB 933 My Soul Rejoices**



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless-ing, Join in con-fess-ing God, who is sole-ly Might-y and  
halt-ed; The meek ex-alt-ed. Full are the hun-gry; Emp-ty, the

ho-ly— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord! His mer-cy  
wealth-y— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure-ly Shall rest se-cure-ly On all who fear Him,  
to-ken All that was spo-ken To A-br'ham's off-spring

Love and re-vere Him— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful-fill-ing— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord!

### \*Silent Prayer

### Closing Voluntary

(10:30)

*O Come Rejoicing*

Polish Carol/Martha Lynn Thompson

### Acknowledgments

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### SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP:

Preacher: Pastor Robert Brown

Liturgists: Pastor Robert Brown & Pastor Jon Furgeson

Organist: 5:00: Michelle Slinger; 10:30: Kendra Ruesler; 8:00 & 9:20: Burnell Hackman

Choirs: Chancel Choir and Bells of Peace

Choir Director: Burnell Hackman, DMM

KFUO AM 850 Announcer/Audio Engineer/Video Engineer: D. Seyfert/A. Hopfer/W. Schuessler

Elders: 5:00: Rich Behnke, John Rastorfer; 8:00: Bob Uthoff, Greg Wirtel;

9:20: Aaron Baese, Jonathan Gathman; 10:30: Rob Uthoff, Greg Wirtel

Ushers: 5:00: Dean Seyfert, Tony Cabanellas, Rick Cusumano, Craig Owen, Dean Rahn;

8:00: Mike Renner, Tim Drier, Tom Johnson, Joe Karasek, Mark Mullen, Doug Schlechte, Dale Watson, Drew Watson; 9:20: Chris Hosty, Glenn Holler, Lars Johansson, Jeff Orf, Robert Wolff; 10:30: Kyle Sandersfeld, Phil Cottrell, Bruce Herzog, Luis Palma, Andrew Sandersfeld

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** now adorn our Sanctuary. A list of those who purchased poinsettias are displayed in the Commons. Poinsettias will be available for pick up after January 7.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT MEET TODAY**, December 24. Classes will resume next Sunday, December 31.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN MAILBOXES** Please note that envelope numbers have been reassigned for 2024. Beginning January 1, please discard all prior year envelopes, and begin using your new 2024 envelopes. If you didn't receive envelopes, and would like to have a box, or if you received envelopes, but do not use physical envelopes for giving, please contact the church office.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR LIVESTREAM SERVICE** Beginning in 2024, our Sunday morning worship service will no longer be livestreamed. Instead, the service will be recorded and available for viewing on our YouTube Channel by noon that day.

**SAVE THE DATE – A NIGHT FOR OUR VIKINGS** The biennial Dinner Auction for Green Park Lutheran School is Friday, March 8, 2024, at Royale Orleans. For more information about tickets, sponsorships, and more, visit [greenparklutheranschool.org/auction/](http://greenparklutheranschool.org/auction/).

**ALASKA MISSIONS** is currently collecting gloves and mittens. If you would like to donate, please place items in the Alaska Mission Collection Box in the commons. Our Christmas Basket sales are in the gymnasium this weekend. Stonie Sausage sales also continue. We are grateful for the continued support of our wonderful church family.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** is taking a break for the holidays and will resume Wednesday, January 3, continuing the study on the book of Genesis.

**FAMILY SKATING PARTY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** On Tuesday, January 2, 10:00 a.m. to noon, join us at Rock Roll-O-Rena in Arnold for a fun morning of skating. The event is FREE and is for all families. Sign up online or at the Commons Counter. See Christina Stackle for more information.

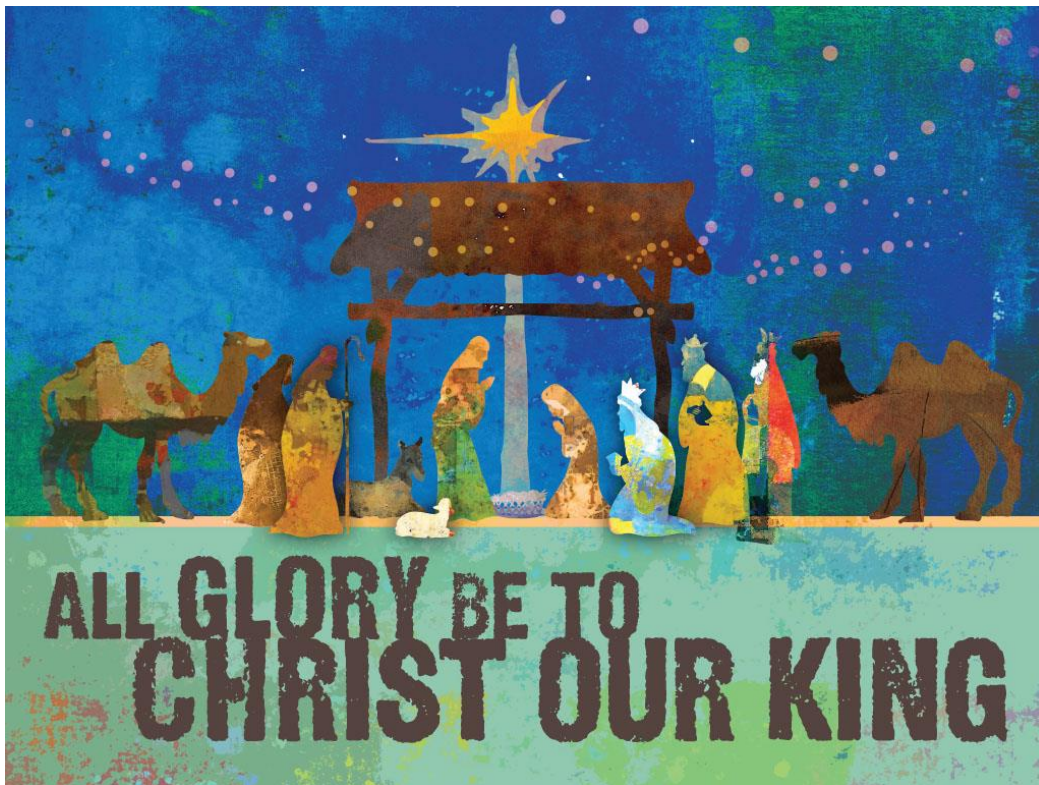
**PLEASE NOTE:** We will not be having a New Year's Eve evening service. Our weekend worship schedule is as normal, with Saturday and Sunday services.

**THE LIFE MINISTRY TEAM WILL BE TRAINING NEW MEMBERS** and would like to invite anyone interested in joining the team. They sponsor various (Life Affirming) activities with the congregation: Sanctity of Life Sunday, Homebound Cards, Life Chain, Book Club, Cards for Confirmands, Movie Nights, and many more. If interested in joining this ministry team, contact Steve Andrews.

JOIN THE LANCER HOCKEY TEAM If you plan to attend Lutheran South and want to play hockey, register for their Prospect Camp, Monday, January 1, 2024, 2:10 - 4:10 p.m. at Meramec Shark Tank, 6297 Lemay Ferry Road. The cost is \$40 per player and is open to 5th through 10th graders. Meet the coaches, get info on the 2024 B-Team, and hear plans for the future JV/Varsity Team.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023**

- Sunday, December 24: 3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship  
5:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship  
11:15pm – Christmas Candlelight Worship Service
- Monday, December 25: 9:30am – Christmas Day Worship Service  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
NO PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE ALL WEEK
- Tuesday, December 26: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Wednesday, December 27: 9:00am – Quilters
- Thursday, December 28: 6:00pm – Crossfire Volleyball
- Saturday, December 30: 3:15pm – Cooper/Schaefer Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00pm – Worship Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday, December 31: 8:00am – Worship Service with Holy Communion  
9:20am – Worship Service with Holy Communion  
10:30am – Worship Service with Holy Communion  
4:30pm – Cooper/Schaefer Wedding  
**NO NEW YEAR’S EVE SERVICE**



Join us for the following Christmas worship services:

### Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion

Prelude begins at 4:40 p.m.

11:15 p.m. – Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Prelude begins at 10:45 p.m.

### Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. – Worship with Holy Communion