

Joy



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
737 Barracksview Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63125-5409
314-892-5610 ~ peacelutheranstl.org

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
Abby Reynolds, Deaconess Intern
Sara Watson, Director of Early Childhood

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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!

NEWS AND NOTES for this week can be found on the Commons Counter. Please take one home to stay informed about upcoming events at Peace Lutheran Church.

P = Pastor

***** = Stand

△ = Stand for Trinitarian stanza

C = Congregation

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Voluntary

*Opening Hymn

LSB 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

*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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C A _____ men

*Lighting the Advent Wreath

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

- P** We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

- P** The third, pink, Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

C **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

- P** Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

- P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

- P** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **And His faithfulness to all generations.”**

*Confession

Psalm 146:5, 7b–8a; Philippians 1:6

- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.
C The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

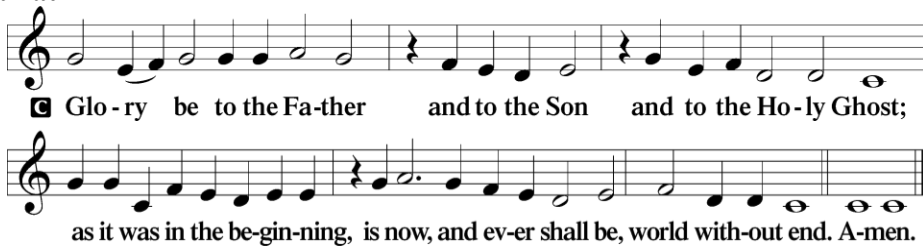
Silence for self-examination.

- P** Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some are known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

*Absolution



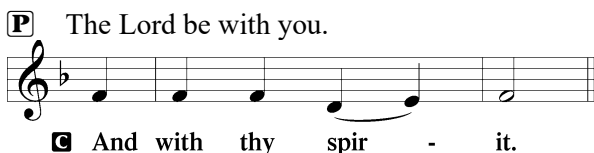
*Gloria Patri



*Kyrrie



*Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray. . .



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Alleluia



*Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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.

Children’s Message

Abby Reynolds, Deaconess Intern



Hymn of the Day

LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Sermon

"A People Between the Times"

(Isaiah 35:1-10)

Sermon Notes:

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

Anthem at the Offertory (8:00)

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

*The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Offertory



C 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.

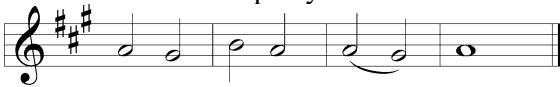
*Prayer of the Church

*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 ✠ give you peace.



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

*Hymn to Depart

LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



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.

*Silent Prayer

Closing Voluntary

Acknowledgments

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Don't forget to pick up this week's News and Notes on the Commons Counter!

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Furgeson

Liturgist: Pastor Robert Brown

Organist: 8:00: Burnell Hackman; 5:00, 9:20 & 10:30: Michelle Sliger

Choir: Chancel Choir

Director: Burnell Hackman, DMM

KFUO AM 850 Announcer/Audio Engineer/Video Engineer: R. Goodman/J. Mattingly/A. Hopfer

Elders: 5:00: Jeff Akers, Rich Behnke; 8:00: Rick Goodman, Ralph Wolters;

9:20: Steve Shawcross, Ken Werkmeister; 10:30: John Rastorfer, Rob Uthoff

Ushers: 5:00: Team #16 – Don Hopkins, Captain; 8:00: Team #1 – Joe Sneed, Captain;

9:20: Team #11 – John Roesch, Captain; 10:30: Team #8 – Mike Murphy, Captain

Acolytes: 5:00: Lena Beutelmann; 8:00: Ashton DeWitt, Zachery Winkelmann;

10:30: Brynn Blanc, Raegan Orf

Join us for our upcoming Christmas worship services!

German Service

Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas at Peace Candlelight Concert

Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Noon, 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

Thursday, December 25, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.



MEN'S CLUB TREE LOT

**NOVEMBER 28
TO
DECEMBER 21**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEET
IN THE COMMONS**



Weihnachtsgottesdienst German Service

**Sunday, December 14
2:30 p.m.**

Service will be re-broadcast on KFUO AM 850
on Sunday, December 21



Christmas at Peace

A Candlelight Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 21
3:00 p.m**

Featuring
The Orchestra of Peace and The Bells of Peace
A free-will offering will be received