

Peace Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 9:00 a.m.



GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME!

Thank you for joining in Worship today.

Whether you regularly worship with us, are here for the first time, or are returning after a time away, your presence is important for the worship we offer to the glory of God. May your experience of God's love be a blessing in your life. If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest register in the Narthex, near the front door. All are welcome at Jesus' table. The center ring in the communion tray has grape juice and the other two rings have wine.

Information in italics | **Congregation responses in bold** | * indicates please stand as you are able
Worship services may involve photography, as well as audio and video recording.

Welcome & Announcements to Prepare Us for Worship

Advent Candle Lighting – LOVE

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope, your peace, your joy, your love in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Receive God's promise of love from Psalm 36: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep. You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.



*** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 4)***

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

(The candles of hope, peace, joy & love are lit.)

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only
you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to
release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while
waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and
teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in
God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may
abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own
righteousness. [†] You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.



** Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

ELW 254

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all...

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise * My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

All:



1.3. My soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak____ and low - ly one,
As you prom -ised to Sar - ah____ and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

***The Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

...the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷ Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

...the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ** He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.



***Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter

...Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to you, O Christ.**



***APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
(A brief silence.)

Each petition ends with: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Dianna Shamel, Michael Knapton, Bill Goulding, Lynn and Phil Klein.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share the peace with each other as you are comfortable.

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray... **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***Proper Preface**

***Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer (traditional)**

***Invitation to Communion**

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Please come forward as you are able to receive communion.

** Lamb of God*

***Post-Communion Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace, now and forever.

*Prayer after Communion

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

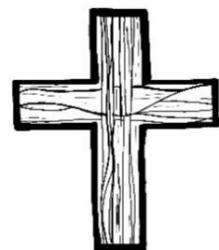
*Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**



** Joy to the World*

ELW 267



*Dismissal

Grow in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements for the Good of All

Offering – please place your gifts in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary.

Peace Lutheran Announcements

Church Website: www.peacelutheranburlington.org

Church Email: peacelca@gmail.com

Pastor Carol's email: pastorcarol.peace@gmail.com

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*Attendance for Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 36 confirmed, 2 virtual
General Offerings \$3,970.00 Mt. Meru \$24.00 Misc \$292.50*

*Worship Assistants for today – Council member in charge: Ken
Christensen, Lector: Janet McGinty, Communion Assistant: Renee
Knapton, Offering counter: John Monsen, Tech: Sean McGinty*

Office Hours... Pastor Carol will not have any office hours for the remainder of December. If you need to reach her, feel free to call (262) 900-8212.

Christmas Eve Service... will be 4:00pm on December 24. Please bring a bell to ring at the end of the service.

The Chosen... We will not be viewing “The Chosen” series through December. Watch for our next viewing in January.

Growing Relationships... Please contact Renee Knapton by phone (262-492-0718) or by e-mail at reneeknapton@gmail.com with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members.

In case of severe weather... you will be contacted that morning by text, email, or both. Please be sure to watch for the notices. It will also be on WTMJ channel 4. Be safe!

Karcher Middle School cupboard...Start bringing healthy snacks and travel personal items i.e. shampoo, deodorant, feminine items to be delivered to Karcher on February 1st.

Burlington Senior Center...Looking ahead we will begin collecting in February for the Burlington Senior Center. They are in need of paper cups (no Styrofoam), small paper plates and napkins to be delivered March 1.

