

Peace Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 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

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

Service of Lessons and Carols



* *Once in Royal David's City*

ELW 269

*Bidding Prayer

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this morning we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels and once again to go to Bethlehem to see that which has come to pass: the babe lying in a manger. This morning we read in scripture the story of God's loving purposes from our first days of disobedience to the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and health over all the earth; for unity and goodwill within God's church; In Christ's name, we remember and pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and the hungry, the abused, the exploited, the hated, and the oppressed,

those who are sick in body or mind; those who mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children; those who do not know the love of God; and those who have grieved the heart of God. Let us hold in our hearts all those who, even as we gather here, endure the devastation and trials of war: may the story of the Christ-child draw them closer to God's love and offer new hope in the gospel of peace and loving-kindness. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who have gone before us in faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and who rejoice with us this day. We humbly offer these prayers and praises, and pray together in the words Christ has taught us:

***Lord's Prayer (*modern version*)**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)



Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

ELW 288

First Lesson: Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were

naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

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



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 (vs 1,2,6,7)

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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



I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing in,
on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
on Christmas day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
on Christmas day in the morning.

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem,
on Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
on Christmas day in the morning.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

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



Fifth Lesson: Luke 1: 26–35; 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

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

fine last time

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.

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 1; 3–7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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



Away In a Manger

ELW 277

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the LORD stood before them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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



Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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



As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

(please stand as you are able)

*** Ninth Lesson: John 1: 1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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



*** O Come All Ye Faithful**

ELW 283

***Blessing**

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**



Announcements for the Good of All

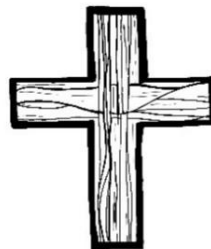
***Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Grow in joy and peace. Embody God's grace.

Thanks be to God.



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

Special thanks to Janet for leading our worship this morning.

Anniversary-Jim and Marilyn Hart- December 31

Peace Lutheran Announcements for December 28

Church Website: www.peacelutheranburlington.org

Church Email: peacelca@gmail.com

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

+++++

Worship Assistants for today – Council member in charge: Renee

Knapton, Lectors: Sharon Ryd, Carol Chaffee, Pam Mueller, Ken

Christensen, Chris Monsen, Kent Zahn, Bev Stobber, Renee Knapton,

Marilyn Hart, Offering counter: Sharon Ryd, Tech: Sean McGinty

Office Hours... Pastor Carol will resume normal office hours

Wednesday, January 7 from 9am-noon. Drop in and say "Hi"!

If you need to reach her any other time feel free to call (262) 900-8212.

Church undecorating... will be Sunday January 4 following worship. Please stay, if you are able, to help.

The Chosen... will likely resume January 25.

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.

Giving bags... Please grab one or two of the bags in the narthex to keep in your car. These are necessities that can be handed out to any homeless or needy person you may encounter. Thank you Kerry Bieneman for supplying these!