

Peace Lutheran Church

Epiphany of our Lord

January 4, 2026 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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.

We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us;

we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

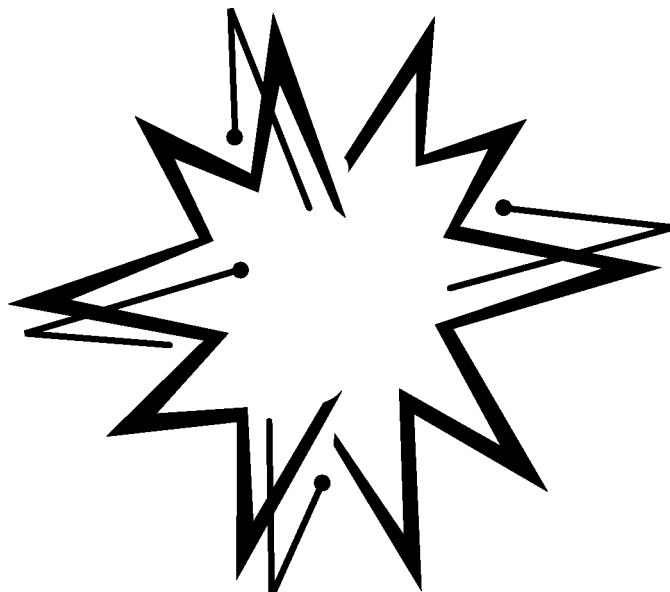


** As With Gladness Men of Old*

ELW 302

***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.**



Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... **O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him

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

* *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.



*Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter
...Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 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.””

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

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

BIRTHDAYS: *Carol Chaffee – January 7*
Lauren Muffick – January 7
Jack Olson – January 10
Ed Drewitz – January 10

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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... **God of glory,**

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. 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.

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

***Invitation to Communion**

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Please come forward as you are able to receive communion.

****Lamb of God* – found on Liturgy Sheet**

***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

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

*Blessing

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

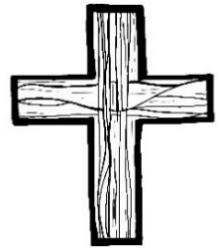


** Shine, Jesus Shine*

ELW 671

Announcements for the Good of All

Offering - Please place your gifts in the baskets in the back of the Sanctuary.



*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.

Peace Lutheran Announcements for January 4, 2026

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 21, 2025 – 28 confirmed, 1 virtual

General Offerings \$2,090.00 Mt. Meru \$12.00 Misc \$1,550.00

Attendance for Wed., December 24, 2025 – 39 confirmed, 3 unconfirmed, 1 virtual

General Offerings \$436.00 Misc \$300.00

Attendance for Sunday, December 28, 2025 – 32 confirmed, 2 virtual

General Offerings \$2,090.00

*Worship Assistants for today – Council member in charge: Sharon Ryd,
Lector: Bev Stobber, Communion Assistant: Bev Stobber, Offering counter:
Kent Zahn, Tech: John Jeunnette*

Office Hours... Pastor Carol's office hours are Wednesdays from 9am-noon. Drop in and say "Hi"!

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.

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.

The Chosen... will likely resume January 25.

Notification of worship cancellation... As we approach the snowy season in Wisconsin, we are setting up a notification procedure if worship will need to be cancelled. You will be contacted that morning by text, email, or both. Please be sure to watch for the notices. Be safe!