



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONMOUTH, IL

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**Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith With: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.**

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## Who Is Jesus: Epiphany 2025 Bible Study

### Jesus, the Peacemaker

#### Opening Premise

Jesus brings peace, but his peace often begins as disruption and despair before it is sensed as peace. It is not peace as the world gives, his peace. Prince of Peace Jesus was a threat to world peace.

#### Identifying Jesus as peacemaker

Read: Philippians 4:7, Luke 2:13-14; Isaiah 9:7

What do we mean when we say “Jesus is the Prince of Peace”

When has the peace that passes all understanding brought us comfort and solace?

How do we achieve this peace?

#### What does it really look like when Jesus is Prince of Peace

Radical Jesus peace is a complete eschewing of all violence. Read from the sermon on the mount, Matthew Chapter 5, selected verses and Luke 24:34

How can we live a life of radical Jesus peace?

Who has exemplified the movements of nonviolence for to gain their political or cultural means?

#### Finding Jesus the peacemaker in our world today

Peace is sometimes conflated with a sense of absence of conflict. But read Matthew 10:34-35

When does the radical Jesus peace actually cause conflict?

**Closing Thought:** Jesus provides a peace that surpasses all understanding, this word comes from Paul’s letter, and it is the basis of our doctrine that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. It is our comfort. It is our compass when life is not peaceful. And yet, we do not simply seek an absence of conflict, but a radical peace that strikes against the world’s desire for perceived peace accomplished through might makes right.

#### Closing Prayer

Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace, and you call us to follow the way of a radical peace. Come into our lives, disrupt what needs disrupting, calm what needs calming, lead us into a life trusting your radical peace always. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

**Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 2:13-14**

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Isaiah 9:7**

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.

**Matthew 5:9**

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Matthew 5:39**

39 But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also,

**Matthew 5:43-44**

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

**Luke 24:34**

[34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**Matthew 10:34-35**

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.  
35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, 36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.