

*Peace Lutheran Church*  
"Peace Through Christ"

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**SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER**  
December 20, 2023



**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: All those who await His appearance pray:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: The whole creation pleads:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**HYMN & CANDLE LIGHTING**

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
 2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
 3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
 And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
 Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

1

Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
 In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
 O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
 To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
 Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen**

**PSALM. . . . .136:1-12, 23-26**

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Give thanks to the God of gods,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: to him who alone does great wonders,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: to him who by understanding made the heavens,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: to him who spread out the earth above the waters,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: to him who made the great lights,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: the sun to rule over the day,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: and brought Israel out from among them,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;

**People: and rescued us from our foes,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor: he who gives food to all flesh,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**MAGNIFICAT (Mary's Song of Praise)**



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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**+ WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** . . . . . *Psalm 110:1-7*

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,  
 until I make your enemies your footstool.”

<sup>2</sup> The LORD sends forth from Zion  
 your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

<sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely  
 on the day of your power,  
 in holy garments;  
 from the womb of the morning,  
 the dew of your youth will be yours.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn  
 and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever  
 after the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand;  
 he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup> He will execute judgment among the nations,  
 filling them with corpses;  
 he will shatter chiefs  
 over the wide earth.

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the way;  
 therefore he will lift up his head.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HANDBELL CHOIR

### “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”



## GOSPEL..... Mark 1:1-15

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to *St. Mark* the 1st chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup> The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN

### “Of the Father's Love Begotten”



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

**MESSAGE**

**“The Advent of Our Lord”**

*Mark 1:1-15*

Pastor Ben Mai

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

**OFFERTORY**

**“Create in Me”**

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.

**LITANY/PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. We gather, Lord, to hear your word and to sing our praises. You have revealed Your grace and love to all people by sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Prepare our hearts to celebrate His first coming that we may be well prepared for the day when He comes again. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for all who are sick and hurting. We ask that You place Your healing hand upon them and grant them peace. Be with all who minister to the sick and dying that they may be used by You to bring comfort. Help us to remember that even as our Savior faced death, He did so with the assurance of the resurrection as He trusted in Your promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, we pray for our congregation and our families as we approach Christmas. Watch over and protect those we love as they prepare to travel, and make our time together a time of celebration as we share Your love with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.**

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### BLESSING

**Pastor:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you now and  
always.

**People:** Amen



### CLOSING HYMN

#### “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king.”  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

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# *Advent*

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*



*Please join us for:*

*Christmas Eve Services:*  
*10 am Traditional Service/  
Christmas Program*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

*5:00pm Contemporary  
7:00pm Traditional*

*10 am Christmas Day Service*

*12/31 10 am Traditional Service*

