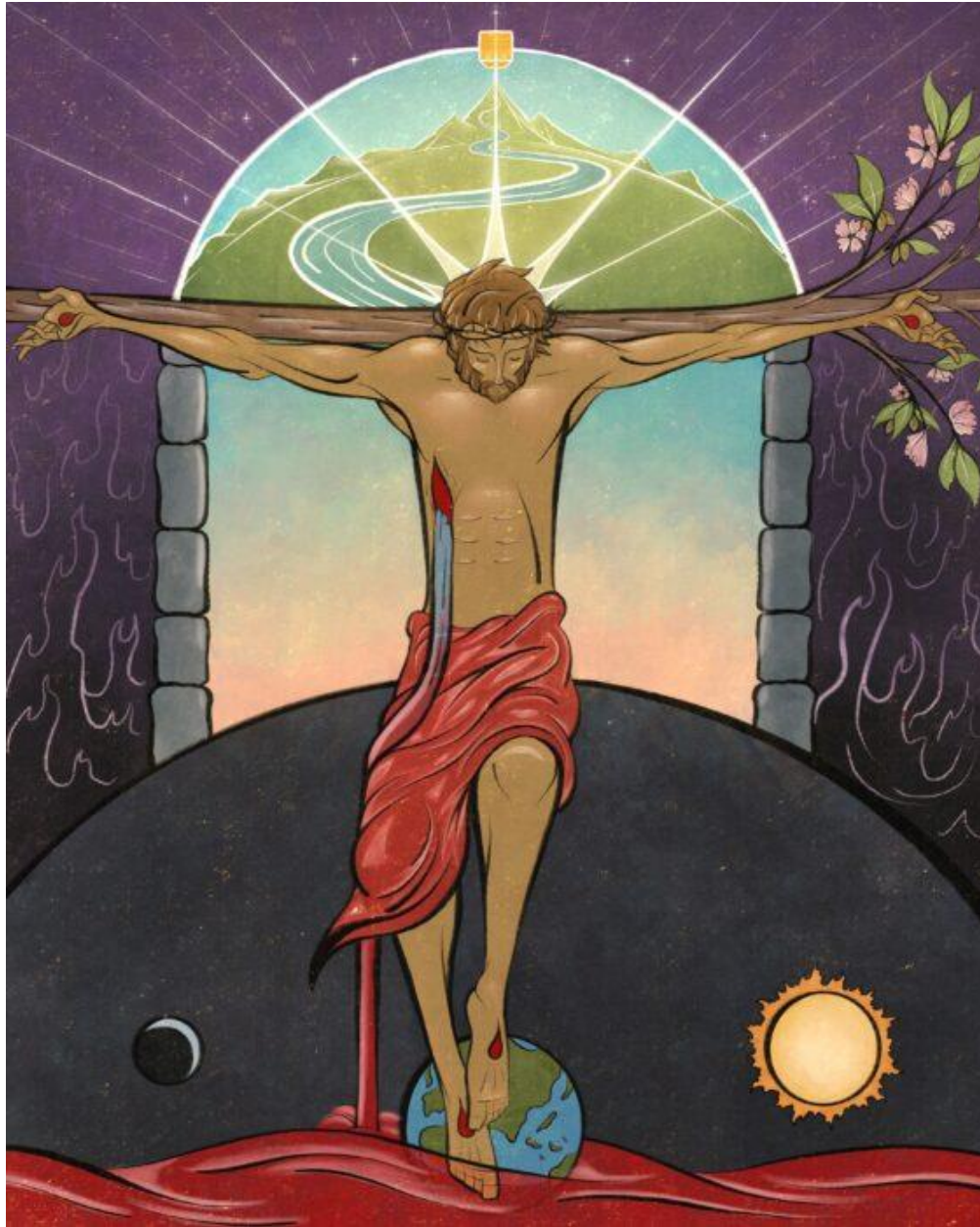


# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The King is Coming to Save:  
He Is Bringing Perfect Joy

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023



*“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”*

Prince of Peace  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3703 River Watch Pkwy  
Martinez, GA 30907

princeofpeacemartinez.com  
facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez  
instagram.com/princeofpeace\_martinez

Pastor Jonathan Neumann  
706-860-1600 (Church Office)  
719-367-1636 (Cell)  
[pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com)

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas  
706-860-1655 (Preschool)  
[princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com](mailto:princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com)

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God’s house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! May God bless our worship today! If you are visiting with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out one of the information cards found in the pews next to the hymnals. You can either place the completed card in the offering plate or give it to the usher when being ushered out at the end of the service. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God's word!

## THEME FOR TODAY

The church year begins much the way it ends—anticipating Jesus’ return in glory to judge the living and the dead. Advent ties this second coming to Christ’s first coming, beginning us on a journey through the ministry of Jesus that culminates in his triumphant death and glorious resurrection, focusing our hearts on the full and final fulfilment of all Jesus has won for us.

When the King comes, he brings us perfect and everlasting joy. Joy is not necessarily the same thing as happiness. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from your King entering into your heart and assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Happiness is fleeting, but joyfulness is enduring.

### The King is Coming to Save

- |                                |   |                                   |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| First Sunday in Advent         | - | Look! Here He Is!                 |
| <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> | - | <b>He Is Bringing Perfect Joy</b> |
| Third Sunday in Advent         | - | Just as God Promised              |

## VOTER'S MEETING

Don’t forget! The annual voter's meeting will take place immediately following the service today.

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

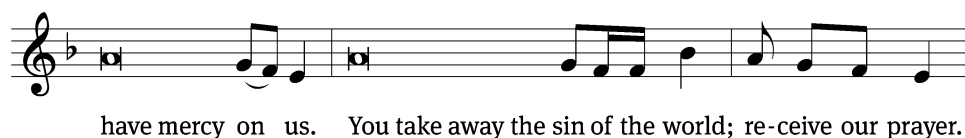
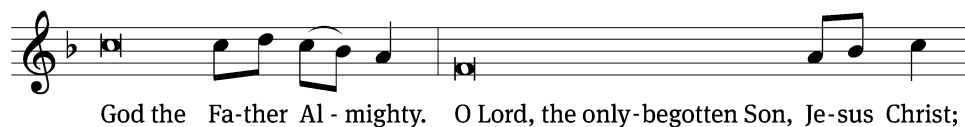
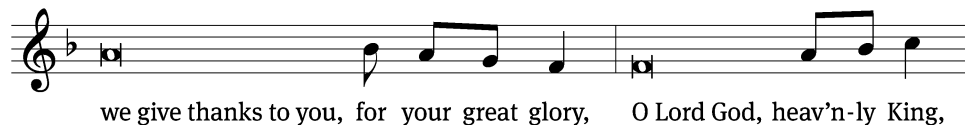
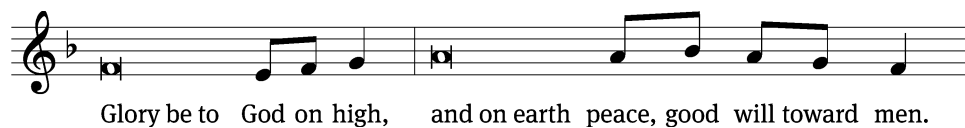
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Word

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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–3,10-11

*Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.  
<sup>10</sup>I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 71A God Is My Strong Salvation

Psalm 71A

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

*The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray continually, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup>but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup>reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



*Refrain*



I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

John 1:6–8,19–28

*John the Baptist teaches the infinite superiority of Christ Jesus. John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup>Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup>He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup>They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

<sup>22</sup>Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

<sup>24</sup>Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup>questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

<sup>26</sup>“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

<sup>28</sup>This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**



*Be seated*

## **324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

CW 324

### **Sermon**

*Christ Brings Good News to Those Who Need It*

*Isaiah 61:1–3,10-11*

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [especially . . . here name the person]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## Offering

*Stand*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

CW 563

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | Pastor @Circuit Meeting in Summerville, SC                                       |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 10:15 am Bible Class<br>5:00 pm Catechism<br>6:30 pm Advent Worship /Bible Class |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel                              |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | 9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper          |

### CHANCEL FLOWERS



Kathy Graham purchased the Chancel flowers today to celebrate with her granddaughter, Ashley, as she celebrates her birthday. Happy Birthday, Ashley! May God lead you to see the blessings he showers on us through the gift of life each day. The time we have on earth is precious time to come to know Jesus Christ by faith and enjoy the blessings of forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation found in Jesus.

### 2024 FLOWER CHART

The 2024 flower chart is posted in the hallway. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday of the year, please put your name down on that date and the occasion, if desired. The cost of the flowers this year will be \$ 37.00



### GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



If you are a Georgia resident and pay Georgia state income tax, you can redirect up to \$5,000 of the money you pay to the government in the form of income tax to Prince of Peace Preschool through this program. Redirecting your tax dollars in this way helps us grow our school and financial aid resources. For more information contact Jeanne Thomas or Ann Wendt. You can also check out the Apogee website at [www.apogee123.org](http://www.apogee123.org)

### POINSETTIAS

Help beautify the church for Christmas! Purchase as many plants as you would like! There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board. Your plant(s) may be taken home following the Christmas day worship service. The cost is \$5.00 per plant.



| Operating Offerings |               | Attendance |    | Mortgage Progress |              |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----|-------------------|--------------|
| 12/3/23             | \$ 3,871.00   | 12/3/23    | 55 | 12/3/23           | \$ 130.00    |
| Month to Date       | \$ 3,871.00   |            |    | Month to Date     | \$ 130.00    |
| YTD                 | \$ 178,295.00 |            |    | YTD               | \$ 39,095.00 |
| Budget YTD          | \$ 186,882.00 | 12/6/23    | 16 | Budget YTD        | \$ 32,111.00 |
| 2022 YTD            | \$ 165,278.00 |            |    | 2022 YTD          | \$ 40,178.00 |

**Weekly needs December Operating Offering**  
**Monthly Mortgage Payment**

**\$ 3,987.00**  
**\$ 2,867.00**

