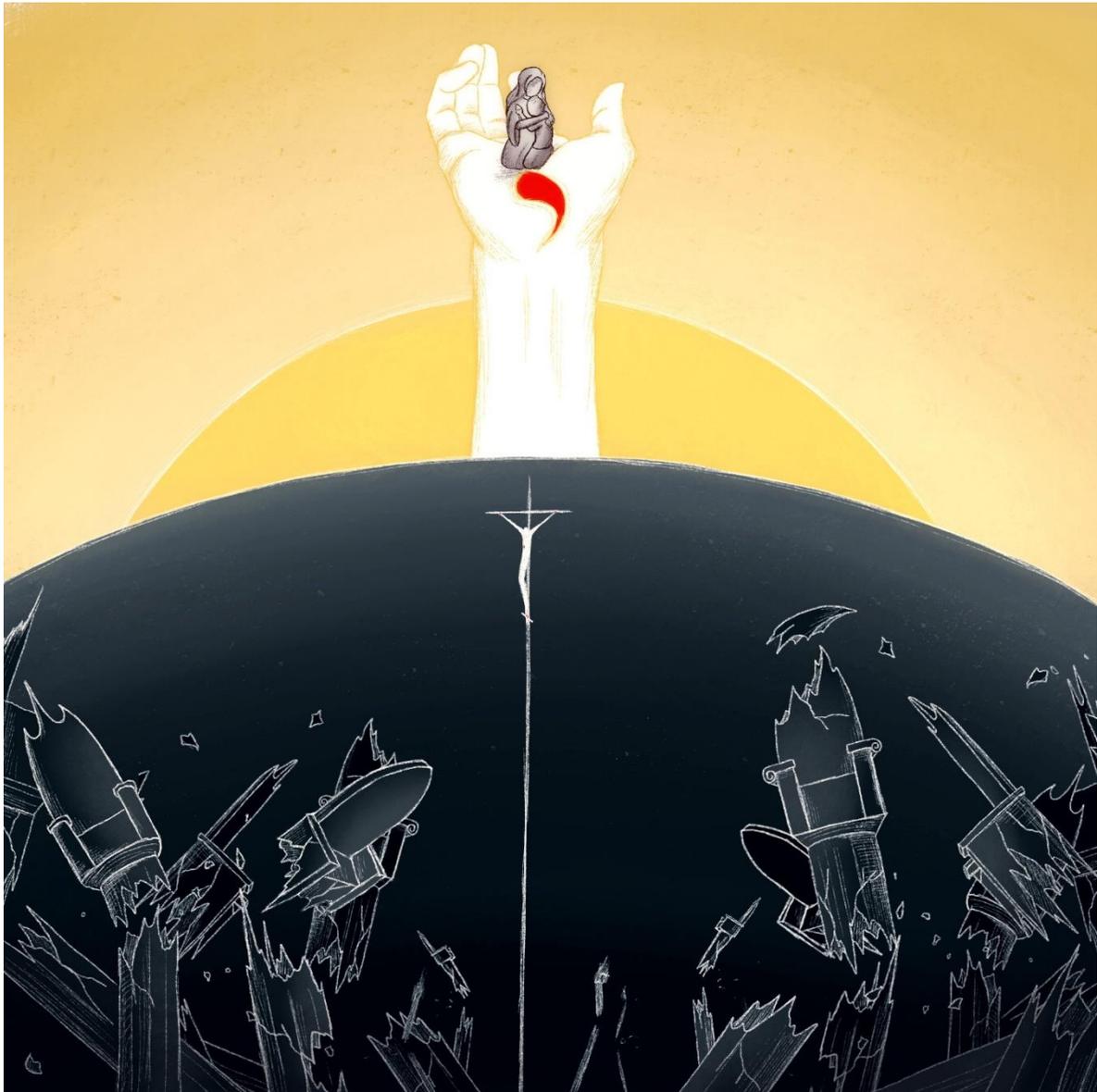


Prince of Peace

Evangelical Lutheran Church



When the LORD Comes Near:
He Lifts Up the Humbled

Advent 4

December 19, 2021



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

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

www.princeofpeacemartinez.com
www.facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez
www.instagram.com/princeofpeace_martinez

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

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas
706-860-1655 (Preschool)
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! He invested the life blood of his one and only Son into your salvation and offers the blessings of that sacrifice to us through Word and Sacrament! May God bless our worship today!

THEME FOR TODAY

Life can weigh us down. This can be especially true during this time of year. The spiritual preparation of the Advent season has so far shown us how our sin weighs us down and humbles us before the Lord. However, being made aware of our weaknesses does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best because he is a God who lifts up the humbled.

Today, our Preschool and Sunday School children will present to us through song and word the Christmas story about Jesus birth. How does this connect with the theme of this final Sunday in Advent? The juxtaposition of this final Advent theme and the simple retelling of Jesus’ birth highlights for us the “why?” of Christmas – why is the first coming of Jesus important if we’re mostly focusing on his second coming? The first coming was what Mary sang about, what those in the temple sang about, what we sing about when we learn about Jesus. When those humbled by their sinfulness encounter Christ, he lifts them up to life everlasting.

WORSHIP SERIES

“Advent” is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time, the Lord came into our world as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming.

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR:

Sunday, November 28 th	—	He Humbles Himself
Sunday, December 5 th	—	He Humbles His People
Sunday, December 12 th	—	He Humbles His Enemies
Sunday, December 19th	—	He Lifts Up the Humbled

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 194

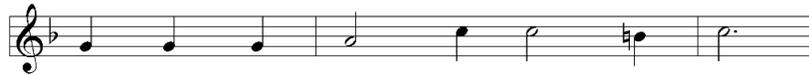
Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

HOLY TRINITY

194 Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es
2 Dear Fa - ther, end - less praise I ren - der
3 I praise you, Sav - ior, whose com - pas - sion
4 Glo - ry and praise, still on - ward reach - ing,
5 Shall I not then be filled with glad - ness?



To praise my God with thou - sand tongues!
For soul and bod - y, no - bly joined;
Has brought you down to ran - som me,
Be yours, O Spir - it of all grace,
Shall I not praise you ev - er - more



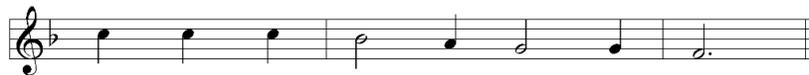
My heart, which in the Lord re - joic - es,
I praise you, Guard - ian kind and ten - der,
Your pit - ying heart sought my sal - va - tion;
Whose ho - ly pow'r and faith - ful teach - ing
And tri - umph o - ver fear and sad - ness,



Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs
For all the dai - ly joys I find
You bore the cross tri - um - phant - ly,
Give me a - mong your saints a place.
Al - though my cup of woe runs o'er?



To all, wher - ev - er I might be,
So rich - ly spread on ev - 'ry side
Brought me from bond - age full re - lease,
What - ev - er good by me is done
Though heav'n and earth shall dis - ap - pear,



What great things God has done for me.
And free - ly for my use sup - plied.
Made me your own, and gave me peace.
Is worked by grace di - vine a - lone.
Your end - less love is ev - er near.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZÜNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

STAND

[M]: In the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C]: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

[M]: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[C]: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy' and the second line contains 'on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on 'men.'

[M]: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

[C]: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

[M]: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the' and the second line contains 'high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The third line contains 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on 'and'.



Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the



high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly



Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer, re-



ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God in the



high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For



you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: The Lord be with you.

[C]: **And also with you.**

[M]: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISTMAS ACCOUNT

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

**Genesis 3:15
 Isaiah 7:14
 Isaiah 9:6
 Micah 5:2**

Away in A Manger

THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS' BIRTH

Luke 2:8-14

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven,
Born as a little baby
Under a wondrous star.
Like us, crying he takes His first breath
Held by His mother, helpless
Close to her beating heart.
Jesus, laid in a lowly manger,
Facing a world of dangers,
Come to turn me a stranger
Into a child of God.

Jesus, King of the highest heaven
Learning to take His first steps,
That He might bring us life.
Like us, knowing our smiles and
sorrows,
He showed the way to follow,
A way that is true and right.
Jesus, take away every darkness,
Steady my simple footsteps
That I might in your goodness
Live as a child of God.

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FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The humble, tiny town of Bethlehem would be exalted. For there a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace.



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

We cannot do enough good works or offer enough sacrifices to raise ourselves up to God. So the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy.

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;

⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’ ”

⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

STAND



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

In Spirit wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."



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

THE APOSTLE'S 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

ADVENT

23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

SERMON

Luke 1:46-55

Mindful of our Humble State

- I. God Extends his Mercy**
- II. He Lifts Up the Humble**

STAND

Cre - ate in me a
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING

During this on-going pandemic we have refrained from passing the offering plate. You may place your offering into the plate on the table before or after the service. Online giving is also available on our website, www.princeofpeacemartinez.com.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! 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.**

[M]: 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.

[C]: Amen.

BE SEATED

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

233

All People that on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord, our God, is good; His mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
 aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth
 joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name
 is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -
 heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -



forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
 al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
 gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: OLD HUNDRETH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm Catechism Class
FRIDAY	6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship
SATURDAY	9:00 am Christmas Day Worship
SUNDAY	8:00 am Worship with Lord's Supper 9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship with Lord's Supper

FLOWERS

Bryan and Sandy Nimmons have provided the flowers today in honor of Gerda Deines birthday. Let us all rejoice with one another as we celebrate the many blessings God brings into our lives! May God motivate us all to use the time we have wisely and make our lives count by living each day to bring glory and praise to God our Savior.



ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING TODAY!

Following the 10:30 service today, we will adopt the 2022 budget, elect the 2022 church council, present the 2021 membership changes, and report on the projects completed in 2021.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday Dec 24th - Christmas Eve - 6:30 pm
Saturday Dec 25th - Christmas Day - 9:00 am
Sunday Dec 26th - Sunday Worship - 8:00 am & 10:30 am (w/ Lord's Supper)

FLOWER CHART

The 2022 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 \$35.00.

TODAY

Following the 2nd service there will be cake for a "Happy Birthday Jesus" Christmas fellowship gathering for families and children in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



<u>Operating Offerings</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Mortgage Progress</u>	
12/8 & 12/12	\$ 5,837.00	8:00 am	25	12/8 & 12/12	\$ 647.00
Month to Date	\$ 10,676.00	10:30 am	54	Month to Date	\$ 694.00
YTD	\$186,687.00	Total	79	YTD	\$38,189.00
Budget YTD	\$203,235.00			Budget YTD	\$32,972.00
2020 YTD	\$201,260.00	12/8/21	28	2020 YTD	\$42,430.00

Weekly needs November Operating Offering **\$ 4,289.00**
Monthly Mortgage Payment **\$ 2,867.00**