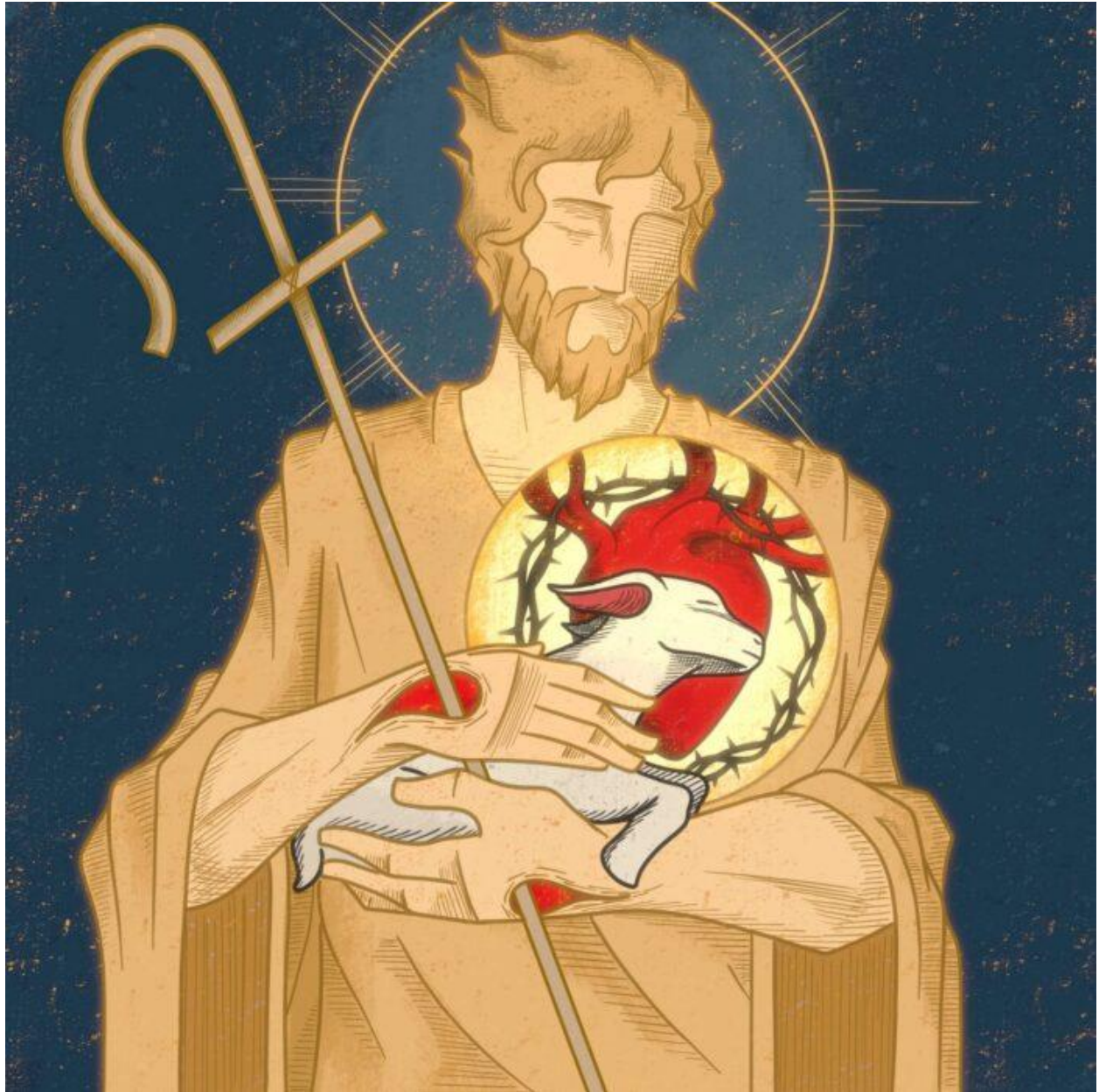


Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The King is Coming to Save:
Look! Here He Is!

1st Sunday in Advent

December 3, 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

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! 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.

Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance pointing out Jesus and preparing us to meet him. Without repentance, the King’s coming only terrifies; for we would not recognize him, nor be ready to meet him. But all those who believe and repent look forward to the coming of the King and the consummation of his everlasting kingdom.

The King is Coming to Save

First Sunday in Advent	-	Look! Here He Is!
Second Sunday in Advent	-	He Is Bringing Perfect Joy
Third Sunday in Advent	-	Just as God Promised

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture teaches us that in the Lord's Supper:

- The body and blood of Christ are really present with the bread and the wine. (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:27)
- Jesus gives true forgiveness, not just a symbol, to each recipient. (Matthew 26:28)
- We are united as one body of believers because we all partake the one body and blood of Christ. "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

For these reasons we ask that, if you are not a part of a WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) or ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) church that publicly confesses to believe these same scriptural truths, you speak with our pastor before you take the Sacrament. We do not wish to judge your faith, but want to make sure that we are in agreement before publicly declaring that we share a common faith.

We are careful about the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper because we want to humbly accept this gift the way God intended.

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



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



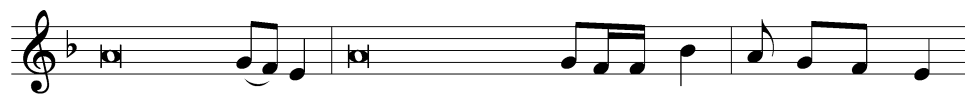
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



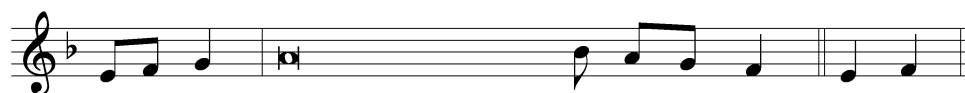
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

Isaiah prophesies about the one who would prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD— a prophecy fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

- ¹Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
⁴Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out."

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

Psalm 85A

LORD, in your mercy hear my prayer; your goodness never fails.

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

**You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.**

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

LORD, in your mercy hear my prayer; your goodness never fails.

I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people.

**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.**

LORD, in your mercy hear my prayer; your goodness never fails.

Text: Hal H. Hopson Text: © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8–14

Judgment day will come at an unexpected time. So, prepare with daily repentance.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Sermon

Here is Your God!

Isaiah 40:1-11

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Offering

The Sacrament

Please be sure to see the note on page 2 of this bulletin regarding our communion practice according to God's Word.

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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,
 bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

325 My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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.

302 Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302 sts. 1 & 4

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright

© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Advent Worship /Bible Class
FRIDAY	5:00 pm Preschool Kids' Christmas Movie Night
SUNDAY	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

CHANCEL FLOWERS



Lori Franchi has provided the chancel flowers today to thank God for the blessings of congregational life and to offer her praises to God as she celebrates her birthday. Thank you Lori, for reminding all of us to never take one another for granted but to thank God for our Prince of Peace family of believers regularly. And, may God grant Lori a Happy Birthday!

ADVENT WORSHIP

Beginning this Wednesday (December 6th) we will have evening Advent worship at 6:30pm. We will have a short 30-minute Evening Prayer (Vespers) service followed immediately by 30-40mins of the regular midweek Bible Study. We will be studying the part of the Old Testament that deals with the kings of Israel, an appropriate topic for the Advent season which gets us ready for the arrival of Jesus our King!



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

VOTER'S MEETING

The annual voter's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th. The meeting will take place immediately following the worship service. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board next to Pastor's office. All male members 18+ are voters. I strongly encourage you to make plans to be in attendance this Sunday to worship the LORD with your brothers and sisters at Prince of Peace, hear what has happened in the last year of ministry, and provide your input on the future of the gospel ministry in this place! Don't forget to use the time leading up to this day to discuss your thoughts with your family and other church members.

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

Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
11/26/23	\$ 1,365.00	11/26/23	55	11/26/23	\$ 0.00
Month to Date	\$ 14,695.00			Month to Date	\$ 5,345.00
YTD	\$ 172,934.00			YTD	\$ 38,965.00
Budget YTD	\$ 182,895.00			Budget YTD	\$ 31,538.00
2022 YTD	\$ 162,965.00			2022 YTD	\$ 39,704.00

Weekly needs November Operating Offering

\$ 3,990.00

Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 2,867.00