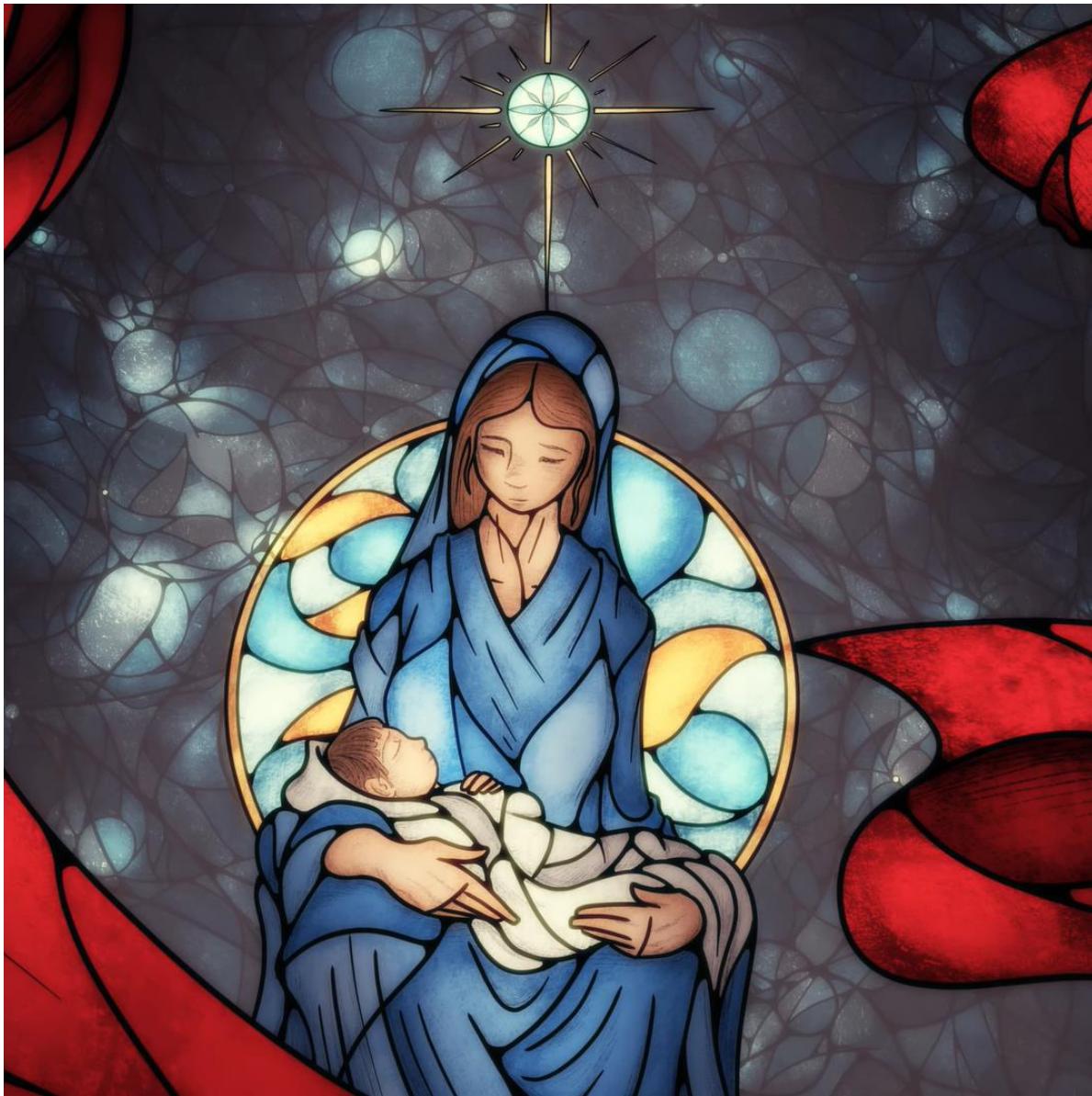


Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Grace of God Has Appeared

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022



"Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace."

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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

The offspring of the woman, a blessing through Abraham's family, a glorious kingdom that God's anointed servant would bring; all these promises were fulfilled when God revealed his grace that night in Bethlehem. This is what he was talking about. This is how he would do these wonderous things. And, he presented it to us in a way so that we could see it and receive it. This changes everything. It establishes a future hope in us and regenerates new life in us now. The grace of God has appeared declaring his wonders, cleansing our hearts, and giving salvation.

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

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.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; 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

Micah 5:2–5a

God promised his grace in ancient times—to Adam and Eve, to Abraham and the rest of the Patriarchs, to David in the early days of the kingdom of Israel, but now, at Christmas, God reveals his promised grace in the little town of Bethlehem.

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.”

³Therefore 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.

⁴He 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.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

96A Let the Heavens Rejoice

Psalm 96A

Second Reading

Titus 2:11–14

Writing to Titus, the Apostle Paul reminds us that God's grace has already been made known through the coming of Christ. The gift of salvation in Christ changes our lives, focusing us on our eternal life and in the process changing the way we live in this life.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:11

The musical notation consists of two parts. The first part is a short melodic phrase in G major, common time, featuring a single measure with a dotted half note followed by an eighth note and a sixteenth-note figure. The second part is a longer, repeating phrase in C major, common time, consisting of three measures. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,' are repeated in each measure. The melody includes various note values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, with some notes connected by beams and others separated by vertical stems. The lyrics are written below the melody in a cursive font.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Refrain

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While world events were seemingly carrying on as they always had, God was bringing to fulfillment that which he had promised long ago. In lowly circumstances, God revealed heavenly glory to announce the arrival of the Savior.

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Sermon

Titus 2:11–14

- Grace Has Appeared
I. That saves
II. That changes

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.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.
Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

Move us to sing with hearts of faith, “Glory to God in the highest!” Amen.

Offering

356 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

CW 356

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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.

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337

*** Christmas Day worship at 10:30 am tomorrow – Bible Class at 9:15 am! ***

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship
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