

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



God's Coming Kingdom gives us  
Strength and Courage

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022



*“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! 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**

Our certain knowledge that the earth is the Lord's and that he controls everything in it gives us patience and courage to wait for God to make what we see match what we know. All is not as it seems. Look at the world and it seems to be spiritually parched like a dry desert. It seems to be devoid of justice like a barren wasteland. But, what we see is not indicative of a failure on God's part. No, his promises of salvation are not empty. The blessed, brilliant, peaceful kingdom we have been hearing about is not just a false hope. Through his anointed one, God will indeed bring about a total transformation. What was dry and barren will spring to life with abundance and God will bring to his presence all of his redeemed!

*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.

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 35*

*The coming of the Messiah would change everything. Jesus fulfilled these words of prophecy in his acts of ministry so that God's people could see how near God's kingdom had come!*

<sup>1</sup>The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer,

and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.  
<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
<sup>8</sup>And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
<sup>10</sup>and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life**

*Psalm 146A*

## Second Reading

James 5:7–11

*A farmer's fields may look fallow or dead, but things are not always what they seem. The seed waits inside the earth for the rains and then bursts forth to life. God's encouragement is for us to be patient for Christ's coming kingdom.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

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*

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

*When we take our doubts and questions to Jesus, he drives the darkness from our hearts and fills us with light.*

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

<sup>7</sup>As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

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

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

### Sermon

*A Promised Transformation Strengthens the Redeemed*

Isaiah 35

*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**

## **Offering**

## **310 Arise, O Christian People**

CW 310

*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.

## 307 When the King Shall Come Again

CW 307

## 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 © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>MONDAY</b>	Pastor @Circuit Meeting in Summerville, SC 6:30 pm Catechism
<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship 7:00 pm 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 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Voters Meeting

## CHANCEL FLOWERS



Kathy Graham purchased the Chancel flowers today to celebrate with her grand daughter, Ashley, as she celebrates her 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## VOTERS MEETING

The annual voters meeting will be held next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service.

## 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.



## FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET

A new flower sign-up sheet for 2023 is on the wall next to Pastor's office.

## GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Don't forget you can participate in the APOGEE program to support our preschool. Your Georgia state income tax dollars can be redirected to our preschool. For more information contact Jeanne Thomas or Ann Wendt. **Sign up for 2023 now!** You can also check out the Apogee website at [www.apogee123.org](http://www.apogee123.org)



<u>Operating Offerings</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Mortgage Progress</u>	
12/4/22	\$ 5,267.50			12/4/22	\$ 132.00
Month to Date	\$ 5,267.50	10:30 am	65	Month to Date	\$ 132.00
YTD	\$ 168,175.00			YTD	\$ 39,836.00
Budget YTD	\$ 190,491.00			Budget YTD	\$ 32,255.00
2021 YTD	\$ 178,611.00	Midweek	24	2021 YTD	\$ 38,202.00
<b>Weekly needs December Operating Offering</b>				<b>\$ 4,114.00</b>	
<b>Monthly Mortgage Payment</b>				<b>\$ 2,867.00</b>	