

# Prince of Peace

## Evangelical Lutheran Church



When the LORD Comes Near:  
He Humbles His Enemies

Advent 3

December 12, 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

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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

Last week we saw that the Lord sends messengers to call us to repentance. This week we learn that those who refuse to heed that call to humble themselves will be humbled anyway. The Lord who once came near in flesh and now comes near in Word and sacrament will one day come near with consuming fire and judgment. The Lord will humble his enemies. This truth does two important things. First, it adds urgency to God’s Advent call to repentance. Second, it gives us comfort when we, as God’s people, experience opposition from the world. Those who oppress and harm God’s people will face justice.

## 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.

## 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 <sup>th</sup>	—	He Humbles Himself
Sunday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	—	He Humbles His People
<b>Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>—</b>	<b>He Humbles His Enemies</b>
Sunday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	—	He Lifts Up the Humbled

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## HYMN 4

## Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

ADVENT

### 4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -  
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make  
5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is  
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is  
Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and  
it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for  
heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis-tress.  
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -  
The end of all our woe he brings; There -  
The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who  
So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And  
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther  
fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior  
comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it  
new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be  
til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
praise For word and deed and grace!  
fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: MILWAUKEE (88 88 88 66) August Lemke, 1820-1913.

STAND

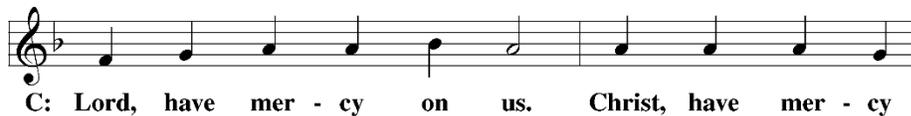
[M]: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



## 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.**



[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.



## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

# GLORY BE TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*



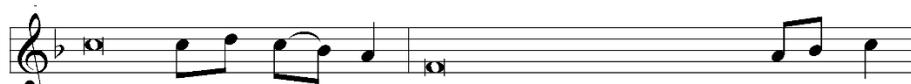
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

[M]: 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.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING

**Zephaniah 3:14-17**

*The prophet Zephaniah urges us to rejoice. Not only has the Lord taken away our punishment, but he will defeat all the enemies of God's people.*

- <sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone*

\*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;\*  
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive\*  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,\*  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;\*  
therefore you are feared.

***Refrain***

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.\*  
My soul waits for the Lord more than  
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,\*  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

**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**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

*When the world opposes Christ and his Church, Christians do not respond with anxiety or anger, but gentleness. We bring all our concerns to God in prayer and rest in his peace of knowing the Lord will humble his enemies in due time.*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)



STAND



## GOSPEL

**Luke 3:7-18**

*Who is Christ's enemy? Anyone who refuses the gifts of his grace, received humbly in repentant faith.*

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.



## **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 fully 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*

ADVENT

18

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come  
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you  
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in  
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your  
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,  
down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion  
deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed  
souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don  
to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your  
Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all  
And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is  
And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -  
And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me  
tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all  
near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can  
cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren  
pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.  
love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!  
help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.  
thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.  
beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. composite.  
Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN (76 76 D) Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

SERMON

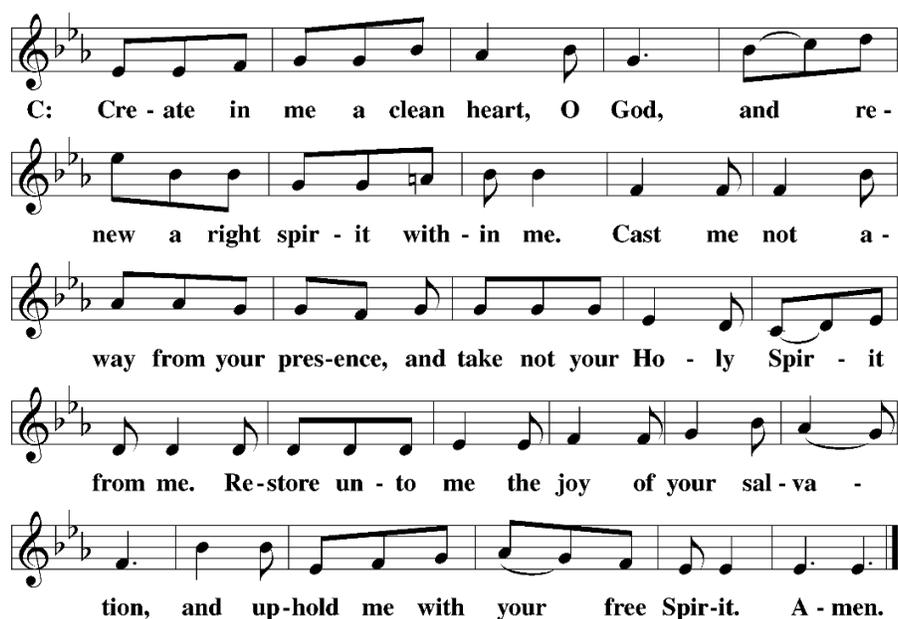
Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is Near

- I. Shapes our attitude
- II. Shapes our action

## STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

## 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](http://www.princeofpeacemartinez.com).*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**

# THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

[M]: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

[M]: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

[M]: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

[M]: 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

*Sanctus*



C: 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**[M]:** 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 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 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."

**[M]:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

C: 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

During the distribution the congregation may sing one or more hymns.

## THANKSGIVING

STAND

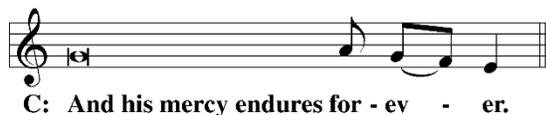
### SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

[M]: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

[M]: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

[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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

BE SEATED

HYMN 7

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ADVENT

7

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the  
 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and  
 4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,  
 Bride - groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,  
 suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er  
 now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion



And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom  
 With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage  
 When sor - row is no more. A - round the  
 Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and



is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,  
 feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -  
 throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In  
 hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The



pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.  
 tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.  
 day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.  
 Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Mid-week Advent Worship
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am Worship 9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Voters Meeting

### ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – December 19<sup>th</sup> (Next Sunday)

Following the 10:30 service on December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will adopt the 2022 budget, elect the 2022 church council, present the 2021 membership changes, and report on the projects completed in 2021.

### CHANCEL FLOWERS



Rebecca Bain will be celebrating her birthday on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>! Happy birthday Becca! Thank you for providing the chancel flowers today to beautify God's house. May we all praise God daily for the gift of life! Our lifetime is our opportunity to be "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth." We use our time best when we spend our lives serving God and one another with gratitude in our hearts for all the blessings we enjoy by faith in Christ Jesus.

### 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 \$7.50 per plant.



### MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

There is one more Mid-week advent service at 6:30 pm on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This year we meditate on what the Psalms tell us about Christ our King as we eagerly await his triumphant return!

<u>Operating Offerings</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Mortgage Progress</u>	
12/1 & 12/5	\$ 4,839.00	8:00 am	27	12/1 & 12/5	\$ 47.00
Month to Date	\$ 4,839.00	10:30 am	37	Month to Date	\$ 47.00
YTD	\$ 180,850.00	Total	63	YTD	\$ 37,542.00
Budget YTD	\$ 198,946.00			Budget YTD	\$ 32,255.00
2020 YTD	\$ 196,716.00	12/8/21	28	2020 YTD	\$ 41,650.00
<b>Weekly needs December Operating Offering</b>					<b>\$ 4,289.00</b>
<b>Monthly Mortgage Payment</b>					<b>\$ 2,867.00</b>