

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



God's Kingdom Comes Through Immanuel

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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

God with us. That's the meaning of the name Immanuel which Isaiah tells us and Matthew reminds us will be the name of the virgin's child. What a remarkable thing! Sin separates us from God. In the garden of Eden, God walked with Adam and Eve, but now we can only see signs of God's presence. Indeed, even when individuals were able to see God's presence they could hardly behold it. Moses had to veil his face to hide the reflective radiance of being in God's presence. So it is that God came to be with us in the unassuming form of an infant to do everything necessary to bring us to be in God's glorious presence in the end. So it is that God's wondrous kingdom comes through the one named Jesus, Immanuel.

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.

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Children's Presentation of the Story of Jesus' Birth

340 Away in a Manger

**congregation to join in verse 3*

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

God offered a sign to an unbelieving king to prove that he would keep his promise and save his people. In Christ Jesus, God kept every promise made.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

After thousands of years of God's promises, Paul looks back and sees every one of them kept in Christ.

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Sermon

The sign of God's Kingdom – God with Us

Isaiah 7:10–14

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.

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.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

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

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Offering

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.

330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THE WEEK AHEAD

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| MONDAY | 6:30 pm Catechism |
| SATURDAY | 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship |
| SUNDAY | 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship with Lord's Supper |

CHANCEL FLOWERS Karen Thomasson has provided the chancel flowers today in honor of the birthdays of her mom, and son. We join Karen in thanking God for 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 and forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation found in Jesus.



VOTERS MEETING

The annual voters meeting will be held immediately following the worship service.

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



| <u>Operating Offerings</u> | | <u>Attendance</u> | | <u>Mortgage Progress</u> | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|----|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 12/7/22 & 12/11/22 | \$ 5,069.00 | | | 12/7/22/& 12/11/22 | \$ 2,832.00 |
| Month to Date | \$ 10,336.50 | 10:30 am | 72 | Month to Date | \$ 2,964.00 |
| YTD | \$ 173,244.00 | | | YTD | \$ 42,668.00 |
| Budget YTD | \$ 194,605.00 | | | Budget YTD | \$ 32,972.00 |
| 2021 YTD | \$ 181,212.00 | Midweek | 13 | 2021 YTD | \$ 38,910.00 |
| Weekly needs December Operating Offering | | | | | \$ 4,114.00 |
| Monthly Mortgage Payment | | | | | \$ 2,867.00 |