

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Greatest Gift

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Pastor Jonathan Neumann
Church Phone: 706-860-1600
Cell: 719-367-1636
Email: pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas
Preschool Phone: 706-860-1655
Email: princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com

Web site: www.princeofpeacemartinez.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez
Instagram: www.instagram.com/princeofpeace_martinez

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

Giving and receiving gifts is engrained in the fabric of Christmas. Children and adults alike enjoy the excitement of asking for, waiting for, and opening gifts. Joy is found in both the giving and receiving. There is no doubt that exchanging gifts at Christmas is special. Maybe there's one gift that stands out in your memory, whether it was from years ago as a kid, or from more recently in life. However, not even the best gifts anyone has ever given us compare to the greatest Christmas gift ever given; a gift which God gave to the world; a gift God gave to you. That gift is the gift of Jesus, God's own Son.

Musician: Ms. Barbara Thomas

INFORMATION

- Our nursery area is located near the entrance area of the church. It is equipped with a television monitor so that you can view and follow the service if you desire to stay with your child in the nursery.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors down the hallway on the right. A changing table for infants and toddlers is located in both restrooms. Additional restrooms are available in the education wing.
- The service is recorded and may be found on our YouTube channel or website.

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

CHRISTMAS

52 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, Then life and
3 From out of dark - ness we have light Which made the



news the an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all
health come in its place. When sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night. From out of dark - ness



Chris - tians sing To hear the news the an - gels bring,
fore your grace, Then life and health come in its place.
we have light Which made the an - gels sing this night:



News of great joy, news of great mirth,
An - gels and saints with joy may sing
"Glo - ry to God and peace to men



News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
All for to see the new - born King.
Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Text: English carol, abr., alt.
Tune: SUSSEX CAROL (88 88 88) English carol.

STAND

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

[C]: Amen.

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.

[C]: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: The Lord be with you.

[C]: **And also with you.**

[M]: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Some 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah speaks about the joy believers will know at the coming of the Savior. He speaks about the work the Savior will do to save us from sin and damnation in terms of a great king defeating the enemies of his people. His victory means a reign of peace in the heart of every believer—a reign of peace that will have its complete fulfillment in his eternal kingdom of heaven.

- ² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
- ³ You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
- ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
- ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Psalm 96

Refrain



A Sav - ior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy,

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his truth.

**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 LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

We don't have to wait to enjoy God's gift to us. In his letter to Titus, the Apostle Paul speaks about the blessings of God's gift that affect us already in this life—we have the power and ability to say no to sin and live godly lives in the present time.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who 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.

STAND

The minister and congregation read the Christmas account from the Gospel of Luke responsively.

[M]: In 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.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

[C]: ⁴ So 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

[M]: ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and 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.

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

[M]: ¹³ Suddenly 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.”

[C]: ¹⁵ When 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.”

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

BE SEATED

CHRISTMAS

61

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain

born in Beth - le - hem!"
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47, alt.

God Knows What Makes a Great Gift

I. A great gift meets a need

II. A great gift shows love

STAND

HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice vs. 1-3

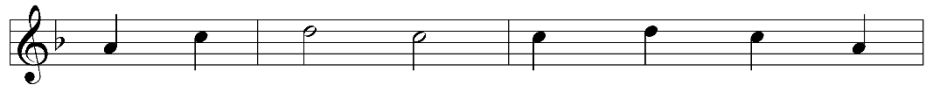
CHRISTMAS

64

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the
 2 To this vale of tears he comes, Here to
 3 We are rich, for he was poor; Is not
 4 O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear, Bless us



God of heav - en, Who, to bid our
 serve in sad - ness, That with him in
 this a won - der? There - fore praise God
 and be near us. Grant us now a



hearts re - jice, His own Son has giv - en.
 heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
 ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
 glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us!

Text: *Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: LASST UNS ALLE (76 76 Trochaic) *Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632, alt.

PRAYER

[M]: Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest!**

[M]: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest!**

[M]: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest!**

[M]: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest!**

[M]: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest!**

[M]: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

[C]: **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

[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]: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CHRISTMAS

54

Where Shepherds Lately Kneled



1 Where shep-herds late-ly kneled and kept the an-gel's word,
 2 In that un-like-ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I-sa-iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for-get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half-be-lief, a pil-grim strange-ly stirred;
 Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a man-ger bed,
 His proph-e-cies ful-filled? With pound-ing heart I stare:
 Its way in-to my heart un-asked, un-forced, un-earned,



But there is room and wel-come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a-lone for me,



But there is room and wel-come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 To die, to live, and not a-lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
 www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Reminder: On-line giving is available on our website should you be unable to join us for worship. Remember to watch the worship service online when you are not here!

CHRISTMAS DAY

On Christmas Day, we will have one worship service at 9:30 am indoors. Come marvel at the truths of Immanuel - God with us!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our celebration of Christmas doesn't end on Christmas Eve or even Christmas Day! The two Sundays following Christmas make up the Christmas season of the church year. Make sure to make plans to hear even more about this great gift God has given!

All Scripture readings from The New International Version. (2011). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Copyright & Podcast/Stream Permission for this service obtained from One License: # A-708875 and CCLI: 11457698 & CSPL174669