

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 4, 2022



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Touched by the Gospel, we see to be instruments of God's Peace,
for the sake of the World."*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1747 W. Milham Avenue ♦ Portage, MI 49024
Pastor Rachel Laughlin
Church phone: 269/343-3453 ♦ fax: 269/343-2025
Website: popportage.org
Find us on Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*

Welcome in the name of Christ!



Worshiping with kids?

- ❖ We love having people of all ages and abilities worshiping together!
- ❖ Wiggles and noise are welcome!
- ❖ Coloring materials are available. Just ask an usher.

Wondering about communion?

- ❖ We believe Christ is fully present in the meal and it is Christ who invites us to share it.
- ❖ All are welcome to share communion with us regardless of age or faith tradition.
- ❖ Wheat bread, gluten free wafers, wine, and grape juice are available.

Want to know more about our community?

- ❖ We strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people.
- ❖ Pastor Rachel enjoys meeting people after worship but never wants anyone to feel pressured to talk to her. Come say hi!
- ❖ Visit the welcome table in the gathering space if you have questions about Lutherans, the Christian faith, or Prince of Peace; if you have a specific prayer request, or want to share your contact information so we can get back to you about something in particular.

Thank you for joining us for worship today. May God bless you and give you peace this week.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold.

Music for the Beginning of Worship

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

arr. Timothy Albrecht

Welcome

Stand

Advent Wreath Lighting

Pastor: In this season of longing and anticipation, as the streets fill with shoppers, bright lights and tempting offers. . . ,

**All: You lead us, Lord, along a different path to a desert river and a prophetic voice –
a call to repentance,
a call to service,
a call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry.
a call to prepare a way in our lives for the Savior of the world to enter in, to know the touch of tender mercy and rest in your forgiving love.**

"Season of Longing and Anticipation"
Sung by Cantors or All as indicated

Cantor/Choir:

In this sea - son of long - ing and an - ti - ci - pa - tion,
God is at work in the heart of cre - a - tion, of - fer - ing all new
life and sal - va - tion:

Advent:

1. A	right -	teous	branch	springs	up!
2. A	voice	cries	out,	"Pre -	pare!"
3. Re -	joice,	the	Lord	is	near!
4. A	wom -	an	ans -	wers	God's
					call!

All:

O - pen our eyes to sights, signs, and won - der; o - pen our
ears to hear your word; o - pen our hearts to live with each
oth - er in

Advent:

1. hope,	In -	car -	nate	Lord!
2. peace,				
3. joy,				
4. love,				

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Reader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

High: *Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.*

Low: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field like showers that water the earth. In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Reader: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

All: And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Sung three times



Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

Hymn of the Day

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

No. 256

Apostles' Creed

Asst: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith;

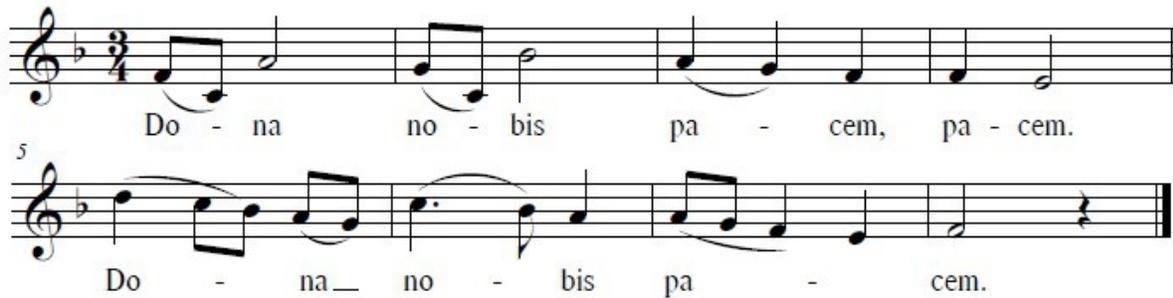
All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

sung three times



*After "Generous God," worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."
Repeat "Dona Nobis Pacem" once after the completion of the intercessory prayers.*

WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL

Sharing the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

*Worshipers share a sign of God's peace with one another,
greeting each other with words like "Peace be with you. . .and also with you"*

Sit

Offering

"Every Valley"
Sanctuary Choir

John Ness Beck

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low,
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low,
and the crooked straight and the rough places plain,
and all flesh shall see it together:*

*For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen!*



1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Liturgical Hand Washing

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. - Psalm 26:6-7

Offering Prayer

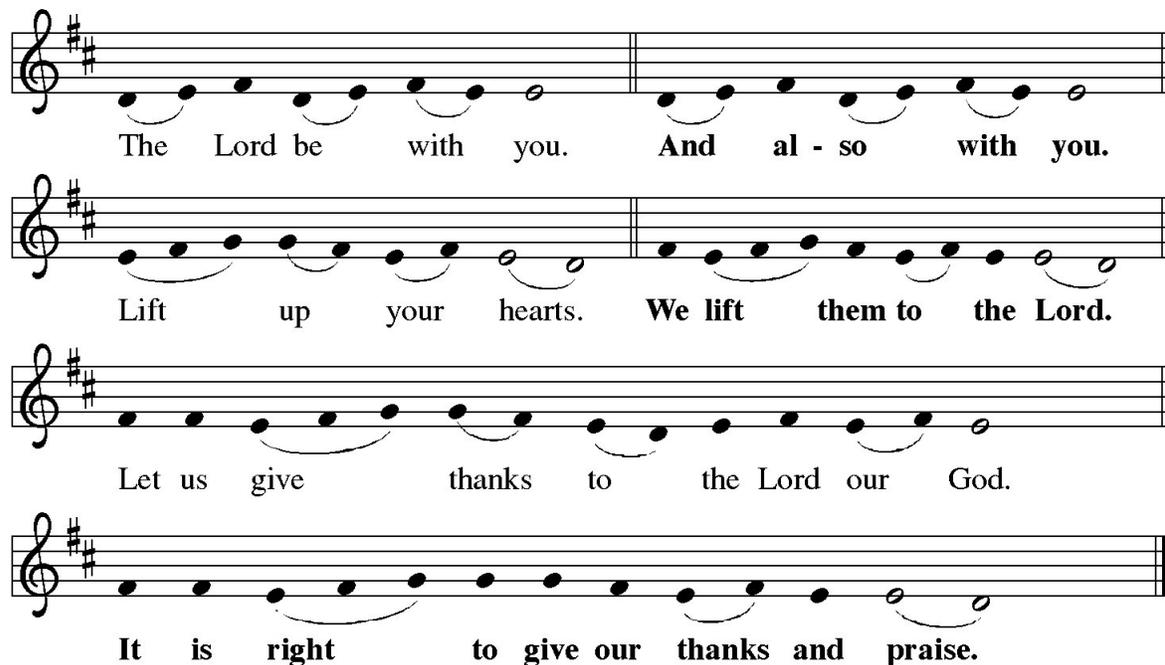
Asst: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.



Stand

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: . . . and join in their unending hymn.

Santo, Santo, Santo



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Pastor: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all that is good; you bring joy from despair, life from death. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: is human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

All: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen, amen, amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: With the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

Pastor: No matter the church of your membership, the form of your baptism or where you are on the journey with God, a place has been prepared for you at this table, God's Table. So come and eat, for all is ready and you are welcome.

Sit

Holy Communion - the Lord's Supper

All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of age or membership status. All communion servers will be masked and have sanitized hands before handling the communion elements. Ushers will direct you to come forward. The pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread (wheat) and the other servers will distribute the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Individually packaged gluten free wafers and sets of completely sealed elements (wheat wafer and grape juice) are available on the stands near the bread distributors. You may pick on of those up yourself, if you prefer. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the tables as you return to your seat.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference to the servers.

Lamb of God



1) O Lamb of God, — you bear the sin of all the world a - way; — you
2) O Lamb of God, — you bear the sin of all the world a - way; — you
3) O Lamb of God, — you bear the sin of all the world a - way: — e -



suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now — we pray. —
set us free — from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, — we pray. —
ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray. —

Communion Hymns

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

ACS No. 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

No. 264

Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Asst: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Sending of Communion

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.

Pastor: . . .the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO OUT TO SERVE

Announcements

Worshipers are invited to share announcements not listed in the weekly Peace Proclamations:

blessings: like anniversaries, birthdays, births or new jobs, prayer concerns and answered prayers. So that all present on person and livestreaming can see and hear you, please move to the microphone on the altar to give your announcement.

Stand

Final Blessing

Pastor: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“O Day of Peace”

No. 711

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Christ is near.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

arr. David Cherwien

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Today's Servers
December 4, 2022

Worship Asst.: Megan Floyd
Acolytes: Brooke & Tyler Lerversee
Reader: Tammy Cooper
Ushers: Don Eklov, Lee Banitt
Sound System:
Video Switcher: Paul Swodzinski
Technology Coor.: Mike Whately
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Beth Whately, Kay Kincaid
Altar Guild: Carol Christianson
Fellowship:
Church Lockup: Don Eklov

Next Week's Servers
December 11, 2022

Worship Asst.: Megan Floyd
Acolytes:
Reader: Kara Floyd
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Sound System: Paul Swodzinski
Video Switcher:
Technology Coor.: Mike Whately
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Sandy Foster, Micki Holder
Altar Guild: Dorothy Tisland
Fellowship:
Church Lockup: Dick Hewitt



Use this QR code to donate online to
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and it's ministries.
See the Peace Proclamations for more details.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Church phone: 269/343-3453

Staff

Pastor: Rachel Laughlin-ext. 13
Youth Minister: Megan Floyd-ext. 12
Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston-ext. 10
Accountant: Marilyn Storch-ext. 17
Volunteer Coor: Open-ext. 15

Technology Manager: Mike Whately-ext. 15
Music Director: Janet Hill
Custodian: Steve Haddix
Worship Team Director: Scott Walker
Nursery: Amanda Bischof