



**GETTING READY FOR GOD'S GREATEST GIFT**

*Peace Lutheran Church*

*Trinity, FL*

*December 6, 2020 A.D.*

# Peace Lutheran Church | Trinity, FL

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December 6, 2020

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are so blessed to have you worship with us today and we pray that the message of God's love that you hear today will be a blessing to your faith and life. If Peace Lutheran Church can serve your spiritual needs in any way or if you simply have questions about us and what we teach, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is on the back of this service folder. Or for more information, see our website at [www.peacelutherantrinity.com](http://www.peacelutherantrinity.com).

- **Restrooms** are located through the door in the back of the worship space. The code is 2500.
- **Children's Sunday School** Sunday School is for children ages 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and is offered at the end of worship and will resume next week.
- **Connection Cards** are found at the guest services table in back. If you are a visitor please fill out a card so we have a record of your visit with us and grab the free gift of *Forward in Christ* as well.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR ADVENT WORSHIP

We are in the season of the church year called *Advent*. Advent is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the "coming" of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time.

What is the best way to get ready for God's Greatest Gift? To be ready is to simply listen to John the Baptist's call to repent, it is to recognize our need for a Savior. To be ready is not in our frantic doing, not getting caught up in the tinsel and twinkling lights. To be ready is to focus on what God is giving. He gives exactly what we need. The best way to get ready for Christmas is a readiness to receive God's Greatest Gift. God bless your Advent worship.



# ADVENT GATHERING RITE

The opening song, prayers and sentences are meant to gather individual Christians together into a worshipping assembly. Through the hymn and responsive words that follow we gather preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

## OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway | 702



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; Your  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and  
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -  
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry  
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall  
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:  
doubt as - sail you!  
now a - dore him! Ho - san - na to the  
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

## INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION

M: John the Baptist, the special messenger God chose to prepare the people for Jesus' first coming, appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him confessing their sins, they were baptized by in the Jordan River.

As we prepare for our Savior's second coming, the Lord's command is the same, telling us to repent of our sins. With believers of old and in the presence of God and our fellow believers today, we confess:

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and action. 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.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: As John prepared the people, this was his message: "After me comes one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Jesus fulfilled his purpose for which he came. Through his life, death, and resurrection, you have been washed clean of all your sins. May he now rule in your hearts!

**C: Amen.**



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# PRAYER

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY, or Kyrie<sup>1</sup>**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY<sup>2</sup>**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> *Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.*

<sup>2</sup> *This prayer has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section.*



# The Word

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

*Comfort for God's people: We are nothing, he is everything*

"**C**omfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 85

- 1 You showed favor to your land, O LORD;  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people  
**and covered all their sins. *Selah***
- 3 You set aside all your wrath  
**and turned from your fierce anger.**
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Savior,  
**and put away your displeasure toward us.**
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever?  
**Will you prolong your anger through all generations?**

6 Will you not revive us again,  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**  
7 Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

8 I will listen to what God the LORD will say;  
**he promises peace to his people, his saints—  
but let them not return to folly.**  
9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Love and faithfulness meet together;  
**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**  
11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
**and righteousness looks down from heaven.**  
12 The LORD will indeed give what is good,  
**and our land will yield its harvest.**  
13 Righteousness goes before him  
**and prepares the way for his steps.**

## SECOND LESSON

*II Peter 3:8-14*

*Don't get distracted from God's message. Hear his Word. Obey his Word. He is coming again soon!*

**B**ut do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup>Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. <sup>f</sup> That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup>But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4,6

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL<sup>3</sup>

Mark 1:1-8

*please stand*

M: The Gospel according to Mark 1.

**T**he beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,<sup>a 2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way" —

<sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.' "

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went

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<sup>3</sup> The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ, our king.



out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* | 16



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.  
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

## SERMON

*II Peter 3:8-15a*

Sermon Theme: Do Not Forget This One Thing

*Following the sermon, please stand*

## 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*

## OFFERING

*The members of Peace Lutheran joyfully and freely worship God with their offerings. The Bible says, "Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of grief nor out of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8). God wants us to give cheerfully.*

**Peace Lutheran offers a secure Give by Text option. To donate via text, send the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, to 888-314-2975. Example: \$40. You will receive a registration link.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, to You we lift up our souls, in You we put our trust. **We are aware of Your mercies; throughout our lives You have shown your steadfast love.** You have provided for our eternal salvation by sending us Your Son Jesus Christ. **For these countless gifts of Your love, and mercy, accept our adoration, praise and thanksgiving.**

O Lord, You have kept Your promises with us Your people. **Forgive us for breaking our promises and confessions before You.** In spite of our good intentions we have not always turned aside from our wickedness. **Forgive us, O Lord.**

Empower us by Your Holy Spirit to keep the promises we made to You when we joined Your church. **Give us the spirit of Christ who humbled himself and became obedient to death for our sake. Give us the will and discipline to follow through on the commitments we have made to You and Your church.**

All these petitions and our silent ones we bring before Your throne of mercy...*Silent Prayer*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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; Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil; For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**



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## *The Sacrament*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

## HOSANNA TO COMING THE LORD



1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na  
 2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bide in  
 3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our  
 4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and



to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -  
 this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -  
 lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls  
 heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -



ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.  
 ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.  
 be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.  
 ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs neu gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

## 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

*John 1:29*



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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Peace Lutheran practices the historical and Biblical practice of Close Communion, following Jesus' instructions to first **instruct**, then **invite** people to this special meal. Read more about this in your Bible in I Corinthians 11:20-34.*

*To honor him we ask...*

- *Members who are a part of our church (affiliated with the WELS or ELS) approach the altar for the meal as directed by the ushers.*
- *Visitors please remain seated during the meal, using the time to reflect on the themes of the service and to pray for those in need. If you'd like to participate in the meal, speak with our pastor after the service to learn more about becoming part of our faith family at Peace Lutheran.*

## PRAYER

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

## **BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace, live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

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## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Joel Schwartz

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **DECEMBER WORSHIP LOCATION**

During December we plan to be worshipping at Cunningham Hall at 10:30 am. Continue to check our website, email and Facebook page for the latest news on our December worship location. Why is our worship location changing during December? The school district has informed us that due to Pasco County positivity rates they are suspending our use of the facility at the elementary school. We hope we will be able to return to worship at Trinity Elementary soon.

\*Note: Our Christmas Eve/Day worship location is yet to be determined.\*

## **DAILY MEDITATIONS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

*Advent/Christmas Devotionals*

Each family is welcome to take with them a *Meditations* booklet for your Advent and Christmas Meditation. Each meditation is clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayers for each day. Meditations provides scriptural guidance and encouragement for daily living. Take home your copy today!

## **WOMEN OF PEACE ONLINE CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

*Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM*

The Women of Peace annual Christmas gathering is this Tuesday, December 8, at 7:00 pm via zoom. This meeting will be treated as our annual Christmas party, bring your hor d'oeuvres , your refreshment of choice, and Christmas cheer. We have a couple of items to take care of but the rest of the time is for us to enjoy each other. We hope to see many faces.

Learn more about the Women of Peace on the last page of this service folder.

# CALENDAR

<b>SUN. DEC. 6</b>	10:30 am	Worship @ Cunningham Hall
	11:30 am	Fellowship
	5:29 pm	Youth Confirmation Class In-Person @ Longleaf Office
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:00 pm	CAP Class
	7:00 pm	Women of Peace Virtual Christmas Gathering (Online)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	1:30 pm	<i>Cross Connections</i> Bible Study Online
	7:00 pm	<i>Cross Connections</i> Bible Study Online
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10:00 am	New Mover Visits – Starts at Longleaf Office
<b>SUN. DEC. 13</b>	10:30 am	Worship @ Cunningham Hall
	11:30 am	Bible Study/Children’s Sunday School
	5:29 pm	Youth Confirmation Class In-Person @ Longleaf Office

## FRUITS OF FAITH

Worship Attendance 11/22:	44
Worship Attendance 11/29:	49
Cumulative gifts given in October 2020:	\$11,658
Budgetary funds needed for October 2020:	\$15,770
Cumulative gifts given in November 2020:	\$13,770
Budgetary funds needed for November 2020:	\$15,770
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Total cong. commitment for “Building Peace for the Future”:	\$159,942
Total gifts and pledges received to date:	\$171,751

## **MORE ABOUT WOMEN OF PEACE**

We are an active group of ladies continually serving our Savior here at Peace and abroad through community outreach and support of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). Our monthly meetings include a Bible Study, a business meeting and sometimes a special program. All women of the church are welcome. No fees are involved although we do accept donations to carry out our service. Join us in the New Year on the second Tuesday of each month.

Here are few things we have been involved in:

- ❖ Taste of Trinity – providing back goods and volunteering, helping to raise funds for our education in the area.
- ❖ Befriend a Mission Church – support with prayers, cards and monetary gifts.
- ❖ Peace Shut-ins – provide and deliver Christmas gifts. Send cards year around and visit when possible.
- ❖ Christmas for Kids – volunteer and help tell the story Jesus' birth to our community
- ❖ Children's Christmas Program at Peace – assemble and provide goodie bags for children
- ❖ Pie Social and Easter Breakfast – providing dishes for these events
- ❖ LWMS – participate in local and national meetings
- ❖ Missionary Children – this year we have adopted 12 children who are studying in the USA, sending cards and monetary gifts as well.
- ❖ Sunshine and Caring and Calling Group – sending cards to people in need of support, arrange help for people after surgery or illness with meals and prayers.

We are not an all-work kind of group, we are a group of Christian women supporting each other and our congregation.

Yours in Christ,  
Cindy Cochran,  
President of Women of Peace



peacelutherantrinity.com

### **Mission Statement**

*Peace Lutheran's mission is to build a Christ-centered community on God's Word  
Growing in God's grace  
Telling of his love to all people*

#### **Peace Lutheran Church**

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