



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
December 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship at Prince of Peace!

Pastor, Rev. Alex Hinojosa
Music Director, Karen Turgeon
Office Manager, Laura Dygert
Church Office Hours: T-F 8a.m.-4pm

As we gather today, our hope is that through this time of hearing and reflecting on God's Word, your faith is strengthened for service in Christ's name. Our mission is to Know Jesus Christ and to Make Him Known.

We pray that you will feel comfortable and at home during your worship experience. If you are here for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Center in the narthex. There you will find information about the church and ministry activities. Please fill out the welcome book located in the welcome center, so we may acknowledge your visit with us.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a congregation that is a part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and we adhere to the practice of closed communion. We ask that all visitors please seek to speak to Pastor Hinojosa before the service begins if you wish to receive the sacrament.

To limit contact, our offering envelopes are available as you enter the sanctuary and may be left in the plate. We appreciate your support.

Thank you for joining us today as we worship our Lord and Savior.
May you be richly blessed by our Prince of Peace!

Worship Today - 9:30 a.m.

Faith Focus this Month

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Visit us on the web at — **www.princeofpeacehills.org**
Phone: (248) 553-3380

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Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death**

**of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me,
a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

C **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

C **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Sing:

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.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

Kyrie *LSB 186*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 18:15–19*

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9 sung to LSB 733 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

1 All praise I'll give with all my heart, Bring thanks to God and sing.

Come, gather all you upright ones, Delight—the Lord is King!

2 Enjoy the great works of the Lord; Fail not to see, adore.

Great and majestic are His deeds; His righteousness endures.

3 In all my mem'ry He has placed Just acts and wondrous deeds.

Know that the Lord's compassionate; Love and kind grace is He.

4 Mercy He gives to those who fear, No food they lack or need.

O He remembers covenant, Provides eternally.

5 Quickly He shows His mighty power; Rewards with gifts of land.

Shows us His just and faithful works; Trustworthy, His law stands.

6 Upright and steadfast are His ways; Vibrant in faithfulness.

Well has He saved His cov'nant ones—extol His holiness!

7 You will find wisdom when you seek the fear of God the Lord.

Zealously follow His commands—praise to Him evermore!

Epistle *Philippians 4:4–7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made

known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia *LSB 190* **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Luke 1:39–56*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory *LSB 192*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spirit.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.
P It is truly meet, right,...

Sanctus *LSB 195*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

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 Words of Our Lord *LSB 197*

Pax Domini *LSB 197*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Please Sit

Distribution Hymns

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

2 As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

3 Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

4 Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.

8 "For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"

9 If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.
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341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy
word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared**

before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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Peace Notes

Prayer Update Requested. We are looking to make updates to the prayer list. If you have a name on our current list, please contact the church office to let us know of any updates or changes.

Our financial snapshot: As we quickly come to the end of 2025 we thank you for your support throughout the year so far. Please consider an additional contribution before the end of the year as we look forward to continuing our mission to Know Him and Make Him Known into 2026!

2025 YTD November

Contributions	\$211,964
Expenses	\$248,049
Difference	\$(36,085)

Next work morning is in January! With Christmas right around the corner, we will be deferring our 3rd Saturday get together in December and plan on pulling January's workday ahead to January 10th. Like always, we will be meeting in the Fellowship hall at 8:00 am. Bless the food around 8:15 am, then start our Bible Study around 8:30 am and go until ~ 9:30 -ish. For those who have time and interest, we will be un-adorning the church. If you don't, please join us for the food, fellowship and bible study. For the new year, we will be starting a themed Bible Study every month. Please join us to see what Pastor Hinojosa has instore for us!

Updates from the church office:

- ♦ Laura will be on vacation January 20 through January 23. We are looking for someone to cover her office hours during that week. If you are interested, please contact the church office. Training will be provided! (248) 553-3380 or office@princeofpeacehills.org
- ♦ Please be sure all bulletin and/or prayer list updates are sent to the church office by Monday this week to be sure they are included in the Sunday bulletin.
- ♦ Christmas/New Year office closures: The church office will be closed December 24, 25 and 26, January 1 and 2. And will close at noon on December 31.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today

Bible Study 8:30am
Worship at 9:30am

Tuesday, December 23

Prayer Team 7:15 pm
NA meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday December 24

Christmas Eve
worship at 5pm
Office closed

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
worship at 10am
Office closed

Friday, December 26

NA meeting 11 a.m
AA Meeting 8 p.m.
Office closed

Sunday, December 28

Bible Study 8:30am
Worship at 9:30am

COMING UP

Wednesday December 24

Christmas Eve
worship at 5pm

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
worship at 10am

Wed-Fri, Dec. 24, 25, 26

Church office closed

Wednesday December 31

New Year's Eve
worship at 5pm
Office closed at noon

Keep in Prayer this week

- ✠ For safety as churches celebrate Christ's birth
- ✠ For the pastors and church workers as they prepare for all the services ahead
- ✠ For safe travels and family gatherings
- ✠ For soften hearts and seekers to receive the best Christmas gift: hearing the Gospel
- ✠ For Holly Purdy upon the death of her mother.
- ✠ For the children of Malawi who have received the Operation Christmas Child shoe-boxes that we filled. We pray for those kids and their families and this opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus.
- ✠ For those experiencing their first Christmas season without a loved one.
- ✠ For the health concerns of: Gail Fisher, Helen Nye, and Rachel Svoke, Dennis Coffey, Barb Dunigan, Betty Burrell, Barbara Moore, Bob Traum, Trish Jones, Quinn Fox, Lillian and Dave Harmon, Tim Hegner, Mary Watson, Rev. Aaron Sterling, Phyllis Thatcher, Barb Pattinson

Readings for the Week *The Time of Christmas*

21 Dec: Is 42:1–25; Rev 9:1–12
 22 Dec: Is 43:1–24; Rev 9:13–10:11
 23 Dec: Is 43:25–44:20; Rev 11:1–19
 24 Dec: Is 44:21–45:13, 20–25; Rev 12:1–17
 25 Dec: Is 49:1–18; Matt 1:1–17
 26 Dec: Is 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16; Matt 1:18–25
 27 Dec: Is 51:17–52:12; Matt 2:1–12
 28 Dec: Is 52:13–54:10; Matt 2:13–23

Faith Focus this Month

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Catechism Recitation - The Apostles' Creed
 The Third Article: Sanctification

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Online Giving:

Follow these simple steps if you would like to make a donation to Prince of Peace using our online donations page.

1. Scan the QR Code below to be directed to our webpage.
2. Click Donate Now. You can check out as a guest or create an account for reoccurring donations.

Our system is simple and safe to use. Call the church office if you have any questions. (248) 553-3380

PrinceofPeacePhills.org



Service Schedule

	21-December	28-December	4-January
	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
ELDER	Charley Staab	Dick Walker	Charley Staab
GREETER	Susan & Kurt Vaaler	Sharon & Ed Kaiser	Lynne Bauer
VIDEO OPERATOR	Jesse Brindle	Chris Moses	Ed Kaiser
TELLERS	JoAnn Lind	Sharon Moses Irene Rothschild	Doug Butler Dick Walker
USHERS	Mark Wells Kurt Vaaler Doug Butler	Charley Staab Jesse Brindle Joe Svoke	Dick Walker Kurt Vaaler Jesse Brindle