



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship at Prince of Peace!

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark Schumm
Music Director, Karen Turgeon
Office Manager, Laura Dygert
Church Office Hours: M-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.

The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is an important part of Christian worship. At Prince of Peace, we practice "Communion Fellowship" which means that those communing at the altar have the following four beliefs in common.

1. I am baptized in the name of the Triune God - Matthew 28:19
2. I am a sinner and seek God's forgiveness through Christ.-1 Corinthians 11:29
3. I recognize the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.-1 Corinthians 11:29
4. I have a desire to live a God-pleasing life.-1 Thessalonians 4:12

If you are a first time visitor, please speak with the Pastor or Elder prior to communing. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those who desire it. *We request that those who join us in worship after the confession and absolution refrain from coming to the Lord's Supper until they have had opportunity to examine themselves. Please see pastor after service and he will commune you.*

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.

AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can give.

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

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Advent
WE ARE WAITING AND AT PEACE

+ PREPARATION +

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

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

Pastor Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

People: Wait for the LORD and keep His way.

Pastor The LORD waits to be gracious to you.

People: He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

Pastor For the LORD is a God of justice;

People: blessed are all those who wait for Him.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:

People: Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.

Pastor Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained 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.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

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

People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Pastor The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

People: In them He has set a tent for the sun,

Pastor which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

People: and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Pastor Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

People: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

All: 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.

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

People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

KYRIE

Pastor In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.

Pastor 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.
People O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
People O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,
People: that we may experience the peace of knowing all things are possible with You;

Pastor for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

Reader: A reading from the second book of Samuel, chapter seven.

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.

And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27*

Reader: A reading from the book of Romans, chapter sixteen.

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38*

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

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 *sts. 1, ref, 2–4*

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

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

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Offertory. 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor It is truly good, right,...

SANCTUS *LSB 208*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor In Your great mercy, O Father, You sent the angel Gabriel to bring Your Word to the virgin Mary, calming her fears and filling her with Your peace.

People: With grateful hearts, we receive Your Word again this day. Favor us with Your grace that we would trust our Prince of Peace and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

Pastor Hear us as we pray in His name and in the words He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 383 A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain

4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem, The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

549 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME Stanzas 1-2,4, 6, 7

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

4 Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Romans 16:27; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor May our gracious God strengthen your hearts, for His plan of salvation has been revealed to us in the coming of His Son, our Savior and King.

People: “To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sending Hymn 370 What Child is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Text: Public domain

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Peace Notes

December Movie Night is coming up! After the hustle and bustle of Christmas plan to join us for a relaxing night out on December 29 at 5pm. Enjoy free pizza and pop! We will be watching *I Heard the Bells*, the inspiring story behind the writing of the beloved Christmas carol and its author, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Join us for worship tomorrow morning at 9:30 am as we celebrate Christmas! New Years Eve worship will be at Prince of Peace at 9:30 am only. An evening service will be held at Christ Our Savior in Livonia at 7pm. Join us for one or both as we welcome 2024 with Him!

From Pastor and Joan: *Thank you for the encouragement, cards and gifts which remind us of the great gift we have received in our Savior! We are thankful to celebrate this gift with you in this season of Christmas. May God richly bless each of you with his presence and his peace.*

Join Prince of Peace as we dive into the Scriptures in 2024. As a congregation, we'll read the Bible together. Our goal is to read through the Old and New Testaments in a year. There is a reading plan available in the narthex or via app. To use the app, simply download You Version Bible app from the Apple store or Google Play and search for "reformation reading plan". Each day (except Sunday) we read several chapters from the Old and New Testaments. Join us in Bible study on Sunday as we discuss what we have read and look forward to the next week's readings.

On Thursday, January 18, 2024 the Christ Our Savior Forever Young Group is hosting Claire Kitchin Dahl who will present on the topic Rosie, the Riveter. A pizza lunch (\$12 per person) will be held at noon, with the presentation following. Contact organizers Linda Waara (734-245-5733) or Barb Karowich (734-480-1644) to sign up for this event at Christ Our Savior in Livonia.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today

Christmas Eve

Worship at 9:30am

Worship at 5pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Worship at 9:30am

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 26

Prayer Team 7:15pm

NA meeting 7:30 p.m.

Church office closed

Thursday, December 28

Bible Study 7pm

Friday, December 29

NA meeting 11 a.m

Movie Night 5pm

AA Meeting 8 p.m

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Worship at 9:30am

COMING UP

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Worship at 9:30am

Mon-Tues, Dec 25 & 26

Church office closed

Friday, December 29

Movie Night 5pm

Sunday, December 31

Worship at 9:30am

Keep in Prayer this week

Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servants to health once more. Please remember to keep in prayer...

- ✠ For the conflict in the Middle East and resolution for cease-fire and peace.
- ✠ For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch our lives and be with us as we celebrate His birth.
- ✠ For all those spending Christmas alone or without loved ones.
- ✠ For Dennis Coffey as he recovers from a recent fall.
- ✠ For the health concerns of: Gloria Vaaler, Gail Fisher, Walter Pulter, Hannah Tilking, Helen Nye, Janet Farrell and Melody Rinn, Barb Dunigan, Florin Zaha. David Collins, Larry Geiger, Mari Clifford, Dave Gooding and Rachel Svoke

Love One Another as I Have Loved You . . .




In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job—it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you, or someone you know, is going through a difficult time, contact our Stephen Leader about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love. Call our confidential line at (248) 553-3380 ext. 9 and our Stephen Minister will return your call promptly.

Upcoming Service Schedule

Altar Guild for December: Barb Donoghue and Rachel Svoke:

	Ministry Service Schedule				
	24-December		31-December		7-January
	9:30 a.m.		9:30 a.m.		9:30 a.m.
ELDERS	Mike Beyersdorf		Greg Echols		Charley Staab
READER	Karen Turgeon		Susan Vaaler		Ron Donoghue
GREETER	Sharon and Ed Kaiser		Marabeth Warnke		Marabeth Warnke
VIDEO OPERATOR	Ed Kaiser		Chris Moses		Barb Donoghue
TELLERS		Barbara Moore Rachel Svoke		JoAnn Lind Mike Hodgins	Sharon Moses Irene Rothschild
USHERS	Volunteer today! Volunteer today!	volunteer today volunteer today	Volunteer today! Volunteer today!	volunteer today volunteer today	Volunteer today! Volunteer today!