



**Advent Sunday  
December 21, 2025**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
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Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

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**Our Mission**  
*To strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ through worship  
and fellowship; to be the face of Christ for all.*

Pastor: Rev. John "Ben" Mandrick  
Secretary: Terry Smith

**WELCOME!** We are happy to have you with us for worship today. We are in the season of advent in the church and are preparing to celebrate Christmas. Join us in our Carol Liturgy today.

***Prince of Peace Lutheran Church***  
***Faith, Worship, Fellowship***

**Everything you need** to participate in worship is printed in this worship booklet.

**Bold print = Congregational Responses**

**Holy Communion** is a gift of God's grace. This is the table of the Lord. All are welcome.

**Introduction to the day**

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*A Time for Meditation & Prayer*

### WELCOME AND MISSION NOTES

### PRELUDE

*(We stand as we are able)*

### P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*A brief time of silence for self reflection.*

Lord of Life,

**Before the beginning of time, you were. After time is done, you will be. Show compassion and grace to your people when we fail to love you, love our neighbors, and love life. Generously pour out your forgiveness so we might turn back to you, and to all the ways of love.**

**Amen.**

God's love cannot be stopped by anything. No distance, height, depth, or brokenness will impede God's love. God knows you intimately, and will never stop loving you. In the name of Christ our Lord, you are forgiven all your sin. Live in the love of God.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*(We are seated)*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
strengthen our hearts  
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**ELW 240—Vs 4 only**

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

(See *Insert*)



*(We stand as we greet one another with Christ's blessing of peace)*

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

(We are seated or we kneel)

## **A: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord God, be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. Empower all people who wait for change especially pray for those from our prayer list and these we say silently or aloud. (PAUSE)

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you are our sure foundation and rock of salvation. Draw near to all those who put themselves in harms way for the sake of others, especially our military personnel, first responders, and those in the medical field.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING** (*Responding to God's grace, we offer our gifts and our tithes*)

#### **SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING**

*(We stand as sing as the gifts are brought forward)*

#### **OFFERTORY:** (*Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger"*)

Accept, O Lord, the gifts that we bring,  
to place on your table as praises we sing.

Our time and our talents, our lives and our love,  
we offer with thanks for your gifts to us.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You share your gifts with all people. Receive our gifts and offerings of thanks in response to your gracious love. Help us to see the needs in our neighbors as ways for us to share the blessings we first received from you, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

##### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: (Sung in the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")**

Holy, holy, holy Lord! <sup>1</sup> God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain <sup>1</sup> all the glory of your name!  
Hail hosanna, God most high! <sup>1</sup> Blest is he who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! <sup>1</sup> Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail hosanna! Praises due <sup>1</sup> be forever, Lord, to you!

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 claim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken)**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The table is set and All of God's Children are Welcome.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** (*Holy communion is a gift of God's grace and is open to all. Please come down the center aisle as directed by the ushers to receive the host from the pastor. Gluten free hosts are available. Receive the wine from the Assisting Minister. Grape juice is available in the center ring. Return to your seats by the side aisle placing empty cups in receptacle.*)

**COMMUNION CANTICLE: (Sung to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem")**

O Lamb of God, the son of God, you take away our sin.  
Cast out the darkness from our lives that you may dwell within.  
Fill us with your compassion. Grant us your peace and grace.  
Draw near to us, come Lord Jesus, within this holy place.

## That Boy-Child of Mary

Refrain



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?  
 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,  
 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,  
 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

Refrain



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?  
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,  
 he is our Savior,  
 heaven-sent helper  
 in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,  
 love and adore him,  
 give ourselves to him  
 in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

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## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way;  
 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,



pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture, in the bod-y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de-scend-ing from the realms of end-less day,  
 veil their fac-es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend-ing comes full hom-age to de-mand.  
 he will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van-quish, as the dark-ness clears a-way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.



## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 'For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 'To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 'My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - - - - - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 'Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

*(When all who desire have received the sacrament, we stand as we are able)*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in the faith in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray,  
Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: Please receive this blessing.  
May God be with you all,  
above you to watch over you,  
beneath you to carry you,  
in front of you to lead you,  
behind you to encourage you,  
beside you to befriend you,  
within you to bring you to eternal life.  
May God watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### SENDING SONG

ELW 631

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al-might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

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