



**Sunday After Christmas
December 28, 2025**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
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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 Christmas.

*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

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

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  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.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN (*All children are welcome to come to the front steps of the Altar to hear and interact with the kids sermon. They may receive a treat for coming forward.*)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

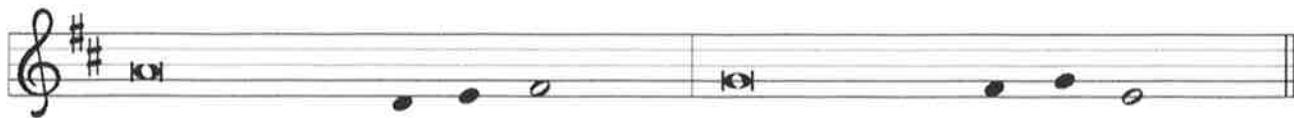
R: A reading from Isaiah.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior
⁹ in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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PSALM: 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;**
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,**
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing God's will;

⁹ mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,**
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;

¹² **young ¹ men and maidens,**
old and ¹ young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,**
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. ¹ Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

R: A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We stand as we are able)



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with -in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor John "Ben" Mandrick

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

(We are seated or we kneel)

A: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us.

Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(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.

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! ¹ God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain ¹ all the glory of your name!
Hail hosanna, God most high! ¹ Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! ¹ Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail hosanna! Praises due ¹ 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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**Our Father, Lord on heaven's high throne,
Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth—in heaven the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom, unto you
In grateful love we bow;
And yours the power, Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory yours; your praise be sung
By angel host and men
In every land, by every tongue
Forevermore!
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.

What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world.
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov'-ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may - find.
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.

Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

(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 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Please inform Pastor Ben in writing or by phone of any

- 1) Upcoming medical interventions in which you desire pastoral prayers and/or visitation,*
- 2) Changes to the prayer list,*
- 3) Announcements for the bulletin.*

Pastor Ben can be reached by cell at 904-556-6687

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