

# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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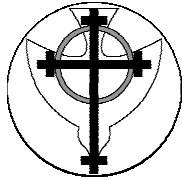
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## The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

25 December Anno † Domini 2011

### Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this Christmas morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

### Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

### Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)*

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**LSB DIVINE SERVICE 3, PAGE 184**

## The Service of Preparation

*(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)*

### Preparatory Prayers

*Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.*

*O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.*

### The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

*(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)*

**The Processional Hymn:** 376 “Once in Royal David’s City”

**The Confession and Absolution** (pp. 184-185)

## From Martin Luther’s Sermon for The Principal Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

**John 1:1-14**

This gospel text allows of no other doctrine beside it; it desires only to testify of Christ and lead men to him, who is the Light. Therefore, O Lord God, these words, “He was not the Light,” are truly worthy to be capitalized and to be well remembered against the men who set themselves up as the light and give to men doctrines and laws of their own fabrication. They pretend to enlighten men, but lead them with themselves into the depths of hell; for they do not teach faith, and are not willing to teach it; and no one teaches it except John, who is sent of God, and the holy Gospel. Truly much could be said on this point.

In short, he who does not preach the Gospel to you, reject and refuse to hear him. He, however, preaches the Gospel who teaches you to believe and trust in Christ, the eternal Light, and not to build on any of your own works. Therefore beware of everything told you that does not agree with the Gospel; do not put your trust in it, nor accept it as something external, as you regard eating and drinking, which are necessary for your body, and which you may use at your pleasure or at the pleasure of another; but by no means as something necessary to your salvation. For this purpose nothing is necessary or of use to you except this Light.

O, these abominable doctrines of men, which are now so prevalent and which have almost banished this Light! They all wish to be this light themselves, but not to be witnesses of it. They advocate themselves and teach their own fancies, but are silent about this Light, or teach it in a way as to preach themselves along with it. This is worse than to be entirely silent; for by such teaching they make Samaritans who partly worship God and partly worship idols, 2 Kings 17,33.



## The Service of the Sacrament

*(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)*

**The Preface and Proper Preface** (p. 194)

**The Sanctus** (p. 195)

**The Lord's Prayer** (p. 196)

**The Words of Our Lord** (p. 197)

**The Pax Domini** (p. 197)

**The Agnus Dei** (p. 198)

*Communicants are invited to pray the following:*

*Before receiving the Sacrament:*

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:*

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

### Distribution Hymns

384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

380 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

393 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

**The Nunc Dimittis** (pp. 199-200)

**The Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect** (pp. 200-201)

**The Salutation and Benedicamus** (pp. 201-202)

**The Benediction** (p. 202)

**The Recessional Hymn:** 388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

**The Postlude**

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## The Service of the Word

### The Introit

*Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 9:6*



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\***

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

**The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\***

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house  
of | Israel.\*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\***

**break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\***

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

**The Kyrie** (p. 186)

**The Gloria in Excelsis** (pp. 187-189)

**The Salutation and Collect of the Day** (p. 189)

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## The Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38*

<sup>17</sup>In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. <sup>18</sup>Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup>And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup>He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup>And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses . . .

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

## The Gradual

*Ps. 118:26a, 27a, 23*

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**This is the LORD's doing;**

**it is marvelous in our eyes.**

## The Epistle

*Titus 3:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## The Alleluia and Verse

*The Triple Alleluia (p. 190—Top) is sung before and after the choir sings the Verse.*

*Verse (choir): The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

## The Holy Gospel

*John 1:1-18*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

## The Nicene Creed (p. 191)

**The Hymn of the Day:** 383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

## The Sermon

### The Offertory and Offering

*(“Christ the Lord to Us Is Born” - Choir)*

*(If you have not done so already, please sign and share the Fellowship folders in the pews to assist us in keeping accurate attendance records. Thank you.)*

## The Prayer of the Church (p. 193)

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.