

# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

28 December Anno † Domini 2014

### Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this 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.



*"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." Matthew 2:18*

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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.*

### **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:** 672 “Jerusalem the Golden”

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

## THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

(from the Treasury of Daily Prayer)

Matthew’s Gospel tells of King Herod’s plot against the infant Jesus after being “tricked” by the Wise Men. Threatened by the one “born King of the Jews.” Herod murdered all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger (Matthew 2:16-18). These “innocents,” commemorated just three days after the celebration of Jesus’ birth, remind us not only of the terrible brutality of which human beings are capable but more significantly of the persecution Jesus endured from the beginning of His earthly life. Although Jesus’ life was providentially spared at this time, many years later, another ruler, Pontius Pilate, would sentence the innocent Jesus to death.

*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**

725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

372 “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”

**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:** 675 “Oh, What Their Joy”

**The Postlude**

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## **The Service of the Word**

### **The Introit**

*Ps. 103:20-22; antiphon: Ps. 103:1*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the  
blood | of the Lamb.

**In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\***  
**in your righteousness de- | liver me.**

For you are my rock and my | fortress;\*

and for your name’s sake you lead me and | guide me.

**Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\***

**you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.**

**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.**

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the  
blood | of the Lamb.

**The Kyrie** (p. 186)

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

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

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**The Old Testament Reading**

*Jeremiah 31:15-17*

<sup>15</sup>Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. <sup>17</sup>There is hope for

your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

### The Gradual

*Ps. 71:4a, 5a, 6a, b, 8*

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked.

For you, O LORD, are my hope.

**Upon you have I leaned from before my birth;**

**you are he who took me from my mother’s womb.**

My mouth is filled with your praise,

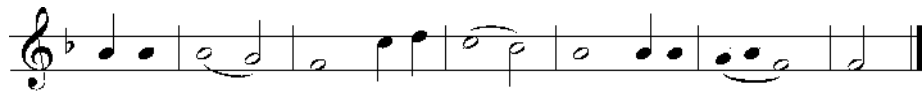
and with your glory all the day.

### The Second Reading

*Revelation 14:1-5*

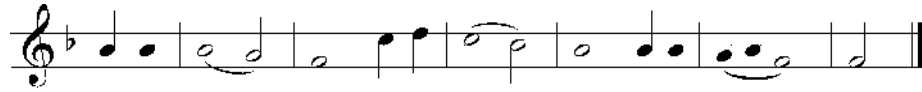
<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup>and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup>and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

### The Triple Alleluia and Verse



**Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.**

*Verse (choir): Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*



**Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.**

### The Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:13-18*

<sup>13</sup>Now when [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, 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.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose

and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**The Nicene Creed** (p. 191)

**The Hymn of the Day:** 969 “Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band” (insert)

**The Sermon**

**The Offertory** (pp. 192-193)

**The Offering**

*(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** . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

### 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)