



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024 ✕ 8:00 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

WEBSITE
popslc.org



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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.



- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, you call the weary and burdened to yourself, to refresh them and give rest to their souls. Let me experience your love through your Word and Sacrament today. Remove the rags of my flesh and adorn me with the garment of your goodness. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and receive my thanks and praise for your glory. Amen.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.*
Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew. 

Hymn 363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Invocation

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Matthew 28:19

Confession and Absolution

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

"Have no fear!" sings Zephaniah. The Lord will defeat the enemies of His people. The Lord is with His people and delights in them!

Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away your
punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
but will rejoice over you with
singing."

On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
"Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66 *selected verses*

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious.
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.
Come and see what God has done,
his awesome deeds for mankind!
I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.

**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.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice!" says Paul. Hand over your every concern to the Lord. The Lord is with you.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it
again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be
evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be
anxious about anything, but in every
situation, by prayer and petition, with
thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all
understanding, will guard your hearts and
your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

John said to the crowds coming out to be
baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We

have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you
that out of these stones God can raise up
children for Abraham. The ax is already at
the root of the trees, and every tree that does

not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized.

“Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 344 What Child Is This?

Christmas Message

Please stand.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when pressured to compromise, providing when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from

all evil, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our congregation, that God would use us to make known His saving name; and that the Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in need of healing and deliverance, that as Christ healed the sick of every disease and affliction, He would also show mercy now; that He would heal them in His time and according to His will, and preserve them in the confidence of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

We pray for...

Harry Calvert (Nancy Brandt's brother-in-law with serious health struggles), Sam (cancer), Frankie (Robyn's young friend with cancer), Chaunc (Krystal's son), Nathan (Zahn's nephew on military deployment), JoElla (recovering from radiation treatment), Craig (chronic back issues), Janice and Julia (cancer diagnosis), Kathy (Tom and Robyn's sister-in-law in ICU), Paul (Pam Farrel's nephew with serious health issues), Angie (Mert and Francine's daughter with health issues), Kaylee Hahn's grandmother (in hospice)...

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life.

With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,

who became our substitute under your holy law,
who destroyed the works of the devil by his perfect obedience to your will,

who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin, who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward. Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be delivered from this world to the feast of the Lamb,

whose kingdom has no end. Hear us as we pray the words He taught us...

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 Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn 345 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Go in peace. Your † sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Prayer and Blessing

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn 352 Joy Has Dawned



