

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
Divine Service Setting 3

**December 20th**  
8:00am and 10:30am



## **Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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**2020 Theme: All In – Being Present in an Age of Distraction**

### **John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah**

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Expectant Mother** + Alicia Krueger + Dawn Gaunt **Health Issues** + Maxine Weseman + Lisa Novak + Marsha Galusha + Kay Krueger + Jeanne Buck + Marvin Hesterman + Dee Janssen + Viola Melvin + Linda Parsons **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

**Birthdays** 12/21 Dan Witt 12/23 Dick LeBeau **Baptisms** 12/20 Lyla Russell 12/21 Brock, Hayden, Jessica Hammond, 12/22 Canten Lacy 12/25 Lois Bullard 12/26 Carolyn McClure, Liza Grotelueschen

**Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-5, Galatians 4:1-7, Luke 2: (22-32) 33-40**

### **What to listen for during the service?**

Listen for everyone to sing the hymn, “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People,” which is the Hymn of the Day for this week. The Hymn of the Day is the hymn with the same theme as the Gospel reading. It usually occurs right before or right after the sermon.

## “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load. Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many\_a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign. For the glory of the Lord  
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

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### ✧ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✧

*The sign of the cross (✧) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✧ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✧ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### ✧ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✧

INTROIT

*(Ps. 19:1,4-6; antiphon: Is.45:8a)*



L: Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*

and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;

**C: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\***

**let the earth cause them | both to sprout.**

**Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.\***

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

GLORIA PATRI

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## KYRIE

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please sit)*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15-19*

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—<sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL *(Ps. 145:18, 21)*

**C: The LORD is near to all who | call on him,\*  
to all who call on | him in truth.  
My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,\*  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.**

## EPISTLE

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks-giving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

L: You are my help and my de- | liverer; \*  
do not delay, | O my God!

**C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:19-28*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight<sup>[a]</sup> the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” <sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

**C:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

*(Please sit)*

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*LSB 357*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,  
Free them from Satan’s tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

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## SERMON

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

## OFFERTORY

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

*(Please sit as the altar is prepared for Holy Communion)*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Please stand)*

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C: It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary....., evermore praising You  
and saying:

**SANCTUS**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He,**

**blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: . . . For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

**C: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world;**

**have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world,**

**have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world;**

**grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

*(Please sit)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**“Your Table I Approach”**

*LSB 628*

- 1 Your table I approach;  
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,  
Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,  
This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

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**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

*LSB 341*

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.

- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.

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*After all have communed*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.  
Depart in ☩ peace.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand )*

#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

**C: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory  
of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

**C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

P: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,  
who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the  
flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us  
pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to  
forsake Your Children but always to rule our hearts and minds  
by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to  
serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen, amen, amen.

### “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”

LSB 342

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied  
Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side,  
Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem,  
A branch from David’s line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:  
The fruit of God’s design.
- 3 As banner of God’s love unfurled,  
Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world  
Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel’s flaming sword—  
Come, open heaven’s door.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace.

C: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*In order to assist with social distancing an usher will dismiss by rows. Please take your bulletin with you or throw it away (no return bulletins).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Holiday Schedule:

#### Thursday, December 24th

6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion and Carols (live stream 6 pm)

#### Friday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Divine Service (live stream)

### Sunday School Lessons for Students

We encourage parents and their children (students) to continue with Sunday School lessons. Packets of lessons will be sent home. You can access a family discussion with a video presentation in Peace’s Facebook Group. Questions contact the Church Office at 402-462-9023.

**Bucket:** Sundays in December for Christmas Cards for Pastor Gaunt and Peace Lutheran Staff !! Thanks, Elders

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Prayer Service (live stream) and 9:30 a.m. Bible Study continues each week.

**Unable To Attend Church** our worship is made available live stream on Sundays at 8 am on our website, or on demand see also our You Tube Channel. They are also available via the public access channel (Spectrum 181) at 2:30 pm on Tuesdays and 8:00 am on Sundays.

**Portals of Prayer Jan. – Mar. 2021 & Higher Things Devotions**—available in the Narthex, copies December 24, 2020 through January 23, 2021.

**2020 Christmas Tea and Cookie Exchange - all Ladies are invited** to participate by sending in your favorite Christmas cookie recipe with a story telling about why it is your favorite recipe and include a picture. Please put information in her mailbox in the narthex or send to Lisa Novak at ljnbnw@yahoo.com. thanks ! Public Relations

**Poinsettia's** may be taken home anytime after Christmas. Thank you for supporting the L.W.M.L. Janelle Ham

**Lifequote:** "As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us remember that Christ's coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God's plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances." *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**January 2021: Friday, January 1st New Year's Day  
Office Closed**

**6:00 p.m. Leadership Planning Meeting**

Tuesday, January 5th. Includes Members of Boards, Committees, Council, and L.W.M.L.

Observe *Sanctity of Human Life* Sunday, January 17th, 2021.  
Stewardship Committee

**Offering Envelopes** available in the Narthex boxes have your name and address on it and new boxes can be added as needed.

**Joyful Response** to give consistently, Help you prepare and fulfill your stewardship plans, and share your generosity efficiently and predictably by filling out one of these flyers (bulletin board).  
Thanks Stewardship Committee

**Heartland Lutheran** On Thursday, January 28th, 2021 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm the Heartland Lutheran National Honor Society Students will be hosting a Blood Drive for the Red Cross. Please consider coming in to make a donation and helping them reach their goal of over 30 usable units --reaching 30 usable units will make HLHS students eligible for a Scholarship through the Red Cross. So your donation will not only help the Community but HLHS students as well. Please contact the HLHS office at [308-385-3900](tel:308-385-3900) for a donation time.

**Talk Radio & Podcasts for the Christmas Season...** Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. Here are some of the topics for the next two weeks: The Advent Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," Christ's Birth Foretold in Micah, Early Church Fathers on the Birth of Christ, The Christmas Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," Holiday Depression, The New Year Hymn "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year," The Top Religion Stories of 2020 and more. You can listen [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.