

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



A Real Christmas:  
Rooted in Repentance

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024



*“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”*

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Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. May God bless your worship today! If you are visiting with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out one of the information cards found in the pews next to the hymnals. You can either place the completed card in the offering plate or give it to the usher when being ushered out at the end of the service. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God's word!

## **WORSHIP THEME**

The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to really be ready for Christmas: only repentance. Repentance is the opposite of work. It is the candid and honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by Christ. At this frenetic time of year, the call to repent is not another demand to do something more. It is a gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ's work. Rooted in that repentant rest, we can fully enjoy a real Christmas.

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and 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.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



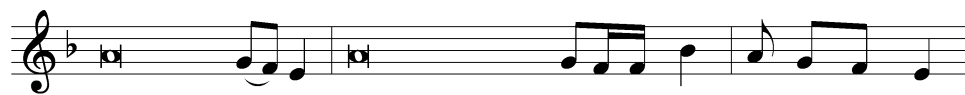
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



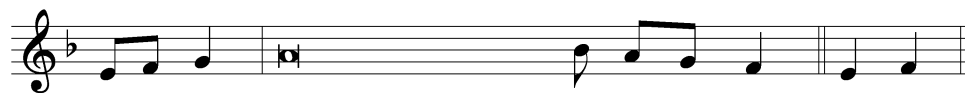
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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*

## First Reading

*Malachi 3:1-7b*

*Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.*

<sup>1</sup>"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup>and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>6</sup>"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

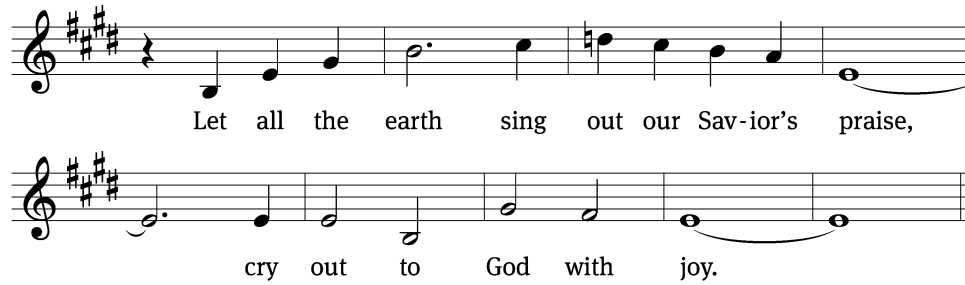
Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# 66C Let All the Earth Sing Out

Psalm 66C

## Refrain



Let all the earth sing out our Sav-ior's praise,  
cry out to God with joy.

## Tone



Shout for joy to God, / all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious.

Praise our God, all / peoples,

let the sound of his / praise be heard;

he has pre- / served our lives

and kept our feet from / slipping. *Refrain*

Come and hear, all you who / fear God;

let me tell you what he has / done for me.

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 be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: David Haas

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## Second Reading

Philippians 1:3–11

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

<sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 3:4,6*



*Refrain*



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.  
And all people will see God's salvation.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

Luke 3:1–6

*John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracoonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup>And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## 316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

CW 316

## Sermon

*Repent! Return! Endure!*

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

*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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [especially . . . here name the person]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Our offerings are freely given as a response to God's gracious outpouring of love upon us.*

## **312 Comfort, Comfort All My People**

CW 312

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
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.

## 310 Arise, O Christian People

CW 310

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>MONDAY</b>	Pastor @Circuit Meeting in Moncks Corner, SC
<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:00 pm Bible Information Class
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship/Bible Class
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:00 pm Elders Meeting
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30 am Catechism
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper

**Annual Voter's Meeting December 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the service.**

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

Mark and Cindy Vogler purchased the Chancel flowers today in celebration of their wedding anniversary! We join them in thanking God for the blessings he has given to them in their marriage. May they daily cherish each other and live their lives with a desire to do all things to the praise and glory of God! Happy Anniversary!



### POINSETTIAS



Help beautify the church for Christmas! Purchase as many plants as you would like! There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board. Your plant(s) may be taken home following the Christmas day worship service. The estimated cost is \$6.00 per plant.

### MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES THEMES

The Christmas tree is a treasured part of our Christmas tradition. In our midweek Advent services, we will look at some Christmas trees. They are not evergreens, nor decorated with tinsel or garland or bright lights. Rather, we will look at some of the trees in the Scripture that point us to the Christ. These Christmas trees, more than the decorative ones, remind us of why the birth of Jesus Christ is so important and worthy of celebration.



December 4 <sup>th</sup>	—	The Tree of Rebellion
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	—	<b>The Tree of Promise</b>
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	—	The Tree of Life

**As of 11/17/24, the Debt Fund balance is enough to pay off the debt! Since all of the payments go through snail-mail, it is expected that our debt will actually be retired in mid December!**