

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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"Peace Lutheran Church ... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word."

*Our Vision: Encouraging Our Members to Live 1-to-1 Lives
Our Focus for 2020: Discipleship in a New Decade*

2nd SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

AS WE GATHER

"Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!" (*LSB* 381:1). "Let our gladness banish sadness All throughout creation!" (*LSB* 371:1). These two songs of the Christmas season remind us that we are in glad times as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas! Through the Holy Gospel today, we hear about our Lord Jesus when He was a young man—one who increased in wisdom and stature. Jesus was glad to be in God's house when He was in Jerusalem. Our gladness in these special days is heightened by our being here for worship as we grow in wisdom and in stature by God's endless grace!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens" *LSB* 589

**1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to You forever!**

2 Oh, what blessing to be near You
And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You,
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.

3 Lord, Your words are waters living
When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;
On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unailing!

4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Hebrews 8:10–12; Psalm 122:1*

P “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

G **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

P And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

G **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”**

P I was glad when they said to me,
G **“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

G **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity.**

O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit so that in the year now beginning we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.

P 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. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

G **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)

1 Kings 3:4–15

EPISTLE

(We are gifted with God's spiritual blessings.)

Ephesians 1:3–14

VERSE *Luke 2:40*

P Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

G **And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

(The boy Jesus is found in the temple at Jerusalem.)

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED/SERMON HYMN

"We All Believe in One True God"

LSB 954

- 1 We all believe in one true God,
Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love
Has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us;
All we need His hand provides us;
Through all snares and perils leads us,
Watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us by day and night;
All things are governed by His might.
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might,
Source of ev'ry grace and blessing;
Born of Mary, virgin mother,
By the power of the Spirit,
Word made flesh, our elder brother;
That the lost might life inherit,
Was crucified for all our sin
And raised by God to life again.
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who, in highest heaven dwelling
With God the Father and the Son,
Comforts us beyond all telling;
Who the Church, His own creation,
Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation
Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be
In bliss with God eternally.
Amen.

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SERMON

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

– Psalm 19:14

OFFERINGS

- May be left in the narthex or mailed to the church
- May be given electronically:
 - Visit our web site: www.peacelcms.org
 - Click on the "Give" button or "Ministries" and then on "Online Giving"
- May be given by text to (989) 308-4203 & then follow the instructions

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation may be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there may be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere may prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from You, O God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with Your people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray also for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired. Lord of care and grace,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways so that we may complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

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

G Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

G 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.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” *LSB 390*

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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✠ in the name of Jesus ✠

Acknowledgments:

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