



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN

PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
December 28th, 2025

## **Welcome to Worship**

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

## **About Our Service**

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

## **Current Worship Series: Christ the Savior is Born**

"Silent Night" was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: "Christ the Savior is born!" Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Our worship follows this path:

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

December 25<sup>th</sup>: Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

**December 28<sup>th</sup>: Son of God**

December 21<sup>st</sup>: Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

January 4<sup>th</sup>: The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

## **Today's Focus: Son of God**

Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made. But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin. The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

*For Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## Hymn

Joy To The World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## Invocation

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

## Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone,**

**I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved others as you command.**

**For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.**

**I am sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

God, who is rich in mercy, sent his son into this world because he loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace, you have been saved.

By Jesus' command and authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Psalm 124:8

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.

## Glory to God

Angels We Have Heard on High sts. 1, Ref

For centuries  
Christians  
have  
responded to  
assurance of  
forgiveness  
with the  
angelic song  
*Gloria* which  
announced  
the peace  
come to earth  
in Jesus.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French  
Tune: French  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# The Word

## First Reading

*Isaiah 63:7–9*



<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the LORD has done for us—  
yes, the many good things  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.  
<sup>8</sup>He said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will be true to me”;  
and so he became their Savior.  
<sup>9</sup>In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

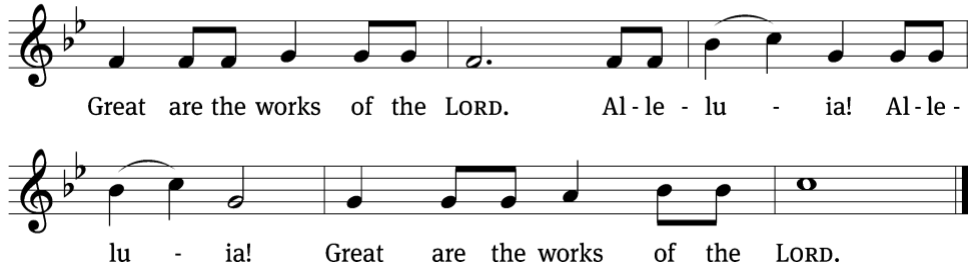
The kindness  
of the Lord is  
seen in  
sending a  
Savior to  
redeem those  
who turn  
away from  
him.

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

## Psalm 2

Great Are the Works of the LORD

### *Refrain*



Why do the nations conspire  
**and the peoples plot in vain?**  
The kings of the earth rise up  
**and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his**  
**Anointed.** *Refrain*

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;  
**the Lord scoffs at them.**  
He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,  
**“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”** *Refrain*

I will proclaim the LORD’s decree:  
**He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”**

**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.** *Refrain*

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## Children's Lesson



## Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Redeemed by  
God’s true  
Son, we can  
call God our  
“Father.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of the Day

*Let All Together Praise Our God*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies  
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who  
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.  
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—  
a great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me  
to help me in my need,  
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no  
more;  
to God our thanks we pay,  
to God our thanks we pay.

## Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

God saves his  
Son from an  
early death.  
God's plan  
was to save  
the world by  
having  
his Son die on  
the cross  
when the time  
had fully  
come.

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup>and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

<sup>21</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup>and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Matthew 2:13–23

## 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.**

*Please be seated*

## Offering

*The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!*

*Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.*

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Apostle's Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Please stand. The pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join to say the Lord's prayer.*

### **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.**

# Hymn

*Joy Has Dawned*



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—  
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels  
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.  
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:  
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,  
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;  
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.  
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, \_ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
 myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.  
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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# Announcements

**Foundations of Faith** is an introductory class to the Christian faith. It’s for anybody who wants to learn or review the fundamental teachings of the Bible, members and non-members alike!

If you or someone you know are interested in joining, contact Pastor for more information.



**Online Offering Option** - If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are secure and go directly to Peace.

**Sermon Discussion Guides** are on the table by the entryway. These are intended for you and your family to take home as weekly devotional materials, allowing you to meditate on the sermon throughout the week. Take one with you as you exit today.

## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
January 4	Steve	Steve	Mary Ann	x	Potluck	help needed
January 11	Cesar	Cody	Zack	x	Gabriela	help needed
January 18	Steve	Craig	Nate	x	Kristie Vlahos	help needed
January 25	Cody	Steve	Zack	x	Amy Hughes	help needed

**New Member Potluck Next Sunday, January 4** - About two times a year, Peace hosts a special meal to welcome our newest members to the Peace family. The next new member Potluck will be on **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the entryway if you would like to bring food or beverages. Thank you!

**Pastor Welch Out of Town this Week** – The Welches will be out of town until Friday this week. I will be working remotely, so you can still reach me by phone or email.

The Coventry Coral:

Refrain:

Lully, lullay,  
thou little tiny child,  
bye bye, lully lullay.

1 O sisters too,  
how may we do  
for to preserve this day  
this poor youngling,  
for whom we do sing  
bye bye, lully lullay?

2 Herod the king,  
in his raging,  
charged he hath this day  
his men of might,  
in his own sight,  
all young children to slay.

3 That woe is me,  
poor child for thee!  
and ever morn and day,  
for thy parting  
neither say nor sing  
bye bye, lully lullay! [Refrain]



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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://Peacehoughton.org)**

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.