

Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Believe

in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved,
you and your household.

Acts 16:31

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he's happy to meet with you. Thanks!

Organic Word † Hybrid Worship † Local Work

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

~ The Baptism of Our Lord ~

January 21, 2018

In the name of Jesus, the Lord's Anointed, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Today, as our worship rejoices in the Light of Life, may his grace shine through his Word to illumine on our hearts with the peace & joy of his accomplished work!



Whether this is your first time with us or Peace is your church home, welcome to worship! If you have questions or needs, feel free to ask us; we'll do our best to help where we can. If time allows, we'd love to get to know you over coffee & snacks after the service; but we understand if that doesn't fit your schedule. Above all, know we appreciate you being here & we'd love to serve your spiritual needs!

As we worship the God of Order in a fitting & orderly way (*1 Corinthians 14:33, 40*), we'll use the path of worship printed in this booklet. Today, we take to heart the One whom we worship, and consider the worship-theme:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!

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Opening Song : Baptized into Your Name Most Holy (red hymnal, 294; verses follow)

The initial notes of worship echo God's love as they remind us of our baptism – by which we've been connected to Christ, are victorious with Christ, & empowered to live in the confidence of his resurrection victory & ours.

The Greeting & Invocation

Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless & be with them (Mt. 18:20); for that reason our worship calls on the name & magnifies the praise of the One, True God.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

 ***Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.***

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit (*John 3:5, 6*).

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us
(*Psalm 51:5*).

But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (*I Corinthians 6:11*).

 ***My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrow's share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.***

Our Confession of Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship services reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've all fallen short of God's demands, & focuses us on our need for a Savior.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil

and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



*My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.*

Moment of silence to recognize & ask forgiveness for our own, personal sins

Our Lord's Absolution

For the sake of his Son, Jesus, the Lord has forgiven all of our sins! It's the pastor's joy to proclaim & assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins & from all of your guilt!

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Titus 3:4-7 & Ephesians 5:25-27*). 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!

Our Song at the News of His Forgiveness

This final verse of hymn 294, Baptized into Your Name Most Holy, considers all that the Lord of Glory so graciously assures us & continues to resound his dear children's glad offering of service to the Lord alone.

printed on page 5



*All that I am and love most dearly –
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone!*

The Prayer of the Day

This brief prayer ponders the grace of our Lord in whom we are blessed to take refuge, & appeals to his gracious mercy & merciful grace as we ask him to hear our prayers, attend to our needs, & grant us his lasting peace.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life. Hear us, LORD, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen!

A Reading from Isaiah 49:1-6 (this translation is the NIV84)

With these quick verses, the Servant of the Lord describes that for which he is anointed; in beautiful grace, he came to restore the tribes of Israel & to be a light for the Gentiles. By love undeserved, he's anointed to serve & to save.

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has made mention of my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³ **He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."**

⁴ But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. **Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God.**"

⁵ And now the LORD says – he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength – ⁶ he says:

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. **I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.**”

This is God’s Word.

Sung Response: O Light of Gentile Nations (red hymnal, 78, vv. 1-3)

This wonderful melody connects the joy of Simeon – who held the Lord’s Anointed in his arms – to our joy as we hold the Christ still in our hearts by faith. In good days & bad, our glad hearts sing to his love & joy.

 *O Light of Gentile nations,
O Savior from above,
Drawn by your Spirit’s leading,
We come with joy and love
Into your holy temple
And wait with rev’rent mind
As Simeon once waited
His God and Lord to find.*

*Dear Lord, your servants meet you
In ev’ry holy place
Where your true Word has promised
That we should see your face
Today you still allow us
Who gather round you here
In arms of faith to hold you
As did that aged seer.*



*Lord, when life's troubles touch us,
You seem to hide your face,
And through our tears we often
Can scarcely sense your grace.
Then be our joy and brightenss,
Our cheer in pain and loss,
Our sun in darkest terror,
The glory round our cross.*

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:4-11 (this translation is the NIV84)

*The Lord himself set John aside for the office of the ministry & the task of “baptizing for the forgiveness of sins.”
As such John’s mission was always to point to the Lord’s Anointed; the One in whom the Father is well-pleased!*

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. **Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.** ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸**I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: **“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”**

This is the Gospel of the our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Statement of Faith : The Nicene Creed

This creed is polemic, meaning it was written to defend against false doctrine that attacked Jesus as True God & True Man. As we use this statement to confess our faith, note the emphasis on “God for us!” in all things.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Sung Response : Christ Your Footprints Through the Desert (blue hymnal, 709)

The heavy, yet confident tone of this hymn “underscores the significance of our Lord’s baptism in his work of salvation, but also demonstrates the intimate connection between his baptism and our own” (CWS 709 hymn-note).



Christ your footprints through the desert

Let to Jordan’s flowing stream.

There you heard the herald crying

Israel’s old prophetic dream:

*“He is coming! He is coming!
He will cleanse the earth with flame!
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!
Wash away your guilt and shame!”*

*Christ, you heard the stirring summons
As by Jordan’s bank you stood;
Bathed, though sinless, with your people
In the river’s cleansing flood.
High above, the heavens opened;
Came the Spirit as a dove;
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing:
“See my Son, the one I love!”*

*Son of God, the road from Jordan
Led at last to Calv’ry’s hill.
There upon the cross forsaken,
You fulfilled the Father’s will.
Lamb of God, we see you dying,
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.
But where death rose up to triumph,
You began your glorious reign!*

*God, in Baptism you have made us
One with Christ, our risen Lord;
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven
Through the water and the Word.
Help us hear your urgent summons,
Calling us to serve you now.
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,
With the cross upon our brow.*

A Sermon Lesson from Acts 16:25-34 (this translation is the NIV84)

The question is simple & natural: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved” (16:30). But the question’s answer & the problem’s solution isn’t just simple, it’s in line with God’s grace: “believe in Jesus.” Phenomenal. Grace.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.

IT REALLY IS . . . PHENOMENAL!

PONDERANCES OF GOD’S PEOPLE ON THIS PORTION OF GOD’S WORD

What single truth does this lesson portray?

What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?

What joys does this lesson lead me to rejoice?

What petitions does this lesson lead me to pray?

What activities does this lesson lead me to do?

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says, “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); if you’re blessed to support Peace with an offering – tangibly here or electronically at peacelutheranboulder.org – thank you! As we carry on our Lord’s work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!

A note to worshippers on our practice of “Member Communion:”



As we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s Supper, we respectfully ask that guests to Peace speak with Pastor Stern before coming to Communion. This practice does not attempt to judge the heart of anyone, but it does stem from the Bible’s stress on the importance of a clear, outward confession (I Cor. 10, *et. al.*) and the encouragement for all to properly examine oneself before the Lord (I Cor. 11). Please understand this is done in loving respect for God and for all people, and feel free to speak with Pastor Stern if you have any questions about it. Though we might not yet gather together at the Lord’s Table, be assured your sins are forgiven in the Gospel message!

Thanks for understanding and respecting the importance of our Lord’s commands.

Prayer of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

This prayer summarizes the needs & thanksgivings we’ve considered so far today, approaches Heaven’s Throne on behalf of those connected to our church & family, & concludes with the prayer our Savior himself taught us.

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son’s body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

A moment to offer today’s prayer requests & our own, private prayers

Heavenly Father, in your grace, in your mercy, in your favor, hear us as we pray:

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 Sacrament

This portion of our service draws attention to the Savior's gift of Holy Communion in which we celebrate the gift of his redemption, bear witness to the fellowship we share, & proclaim his death until he returns.

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!***

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he's blessed us with every spiritual blessing!

In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ.

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Sung Response : The Sanctus

“Sanctus” is the Latin word for “holy.” This song, which blends the angels’ accolades in Isaiah 6 with the shout of the crowds in Matthew 21, proclaims that the Lord alone is holy & has come to set his people free.

 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory!
You are my God, and I will exalt you.
I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.*

The Consecration, Distribution & Reception of the Lord’s Supper

*The pastor speaks the Words of Institution, not as a magical formula, but “as a **prayer** that the Lord may do what he’s promised . . . as a **confession** that the body and blood of Christ are present in the Sacrament, and as an **invitation** to the communicants to make Jesus’ promise their own through faith” (God So Loved the World, 505).*

In Holy Communion God gives us a unique opportunity to publicly confess our unity of faith. He also gives us a tangible reassurance that it was his blood – not ours – and his body – not ours – which paid the ransom price for the world’s sins and sealed our salvation. With joy in our hearts, and with hearts prepared to receive him, we hear and remember the words our Savior spoke.

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!*

Sung Response : The Agnus Dei

“Agnus Dei” is a Latin phrase that means “Lamb of God.” This sung petition proclaims with John the Baptist that Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed once for all, who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

 ***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen!***

No hymn will be sung during the distribution of the Lord’s Supper; instead, worshippers might simply ponder the grace of our God in gifting us his Anointed Son as that truth is joyfully reflected in the hymn, Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice (red hymnal, 377).

The Song of Thanksgiving

This brief song raises the voices of his people in the praise of his goodness. With hearts refreshed by his Supper, we go forth to rejoice in his name & proclaim his promises with joy & with thanksgiving. Alleluia!

 ***Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev’ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
And proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises
And leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Closing Prayer

This final prayer summarizes both the truth & the confidence we have with the Supper fresh on our hearts; the Lord’s mercy – which he has distributed to us once again – is good & his mercy continues to guide our days.

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **Amen!**

The Blessing & Benediction

Where the Lord's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, & his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, & to give us peace (Numbers 6).

Sisters and brothers, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

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! Amen! Amen!**

Final Song : To Jordan's River Came Our Lord (red hymnal, 89, vv. 1, 5, 6)

These final chords echo glad thanks for & true praise of the Lord's Anointed. Christ has come to carry our sins, to save us, to free us. In him, we are forgiven, saved, & free! So, rise, faint hearts, be resolute in that grace!

 ***To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory pow'r, and might.***

*The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.*

*Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme!*

This Week for Peace Lutheran:

Tuesday (1/23):

10:15a – Manor Care Bible Study (Psalm 98)

Wednesday (1/24):

9:00a – Noon – Drop-in Center Open (supervisor: Karla)

Thursday (1/25):

9:00a – Noon – Drop-in Center Open (supervisor: Sterns)

Sunday (1/28): *Please remember to invite & encourage others!*

8:30a – *Lord's Prayer* Bible Class

9:30a – Worship (musician: Claire; preacher: Vicar Dan Rodewald)

10:45a – Coffee & snacks in the foyer

Notes for the Next Weeks:

Aside from the quick note that Pastor will be at conference in KC from 1/28-1/31 “life connected to Peace” is pretty quiet as the January winds down. So, dear friends, enjoy it & blessings on it!

Next Sunday's Service Theme:

God Revealed!

Next Sunday's Scripture Lessons (tentative sermon lesson):

I Samuel 3:1-10 † I Corinthians 6:12-20 † John 1:43-51 † Psalm 67