

Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

2790 Jay Rd. Boulder, CO 80304

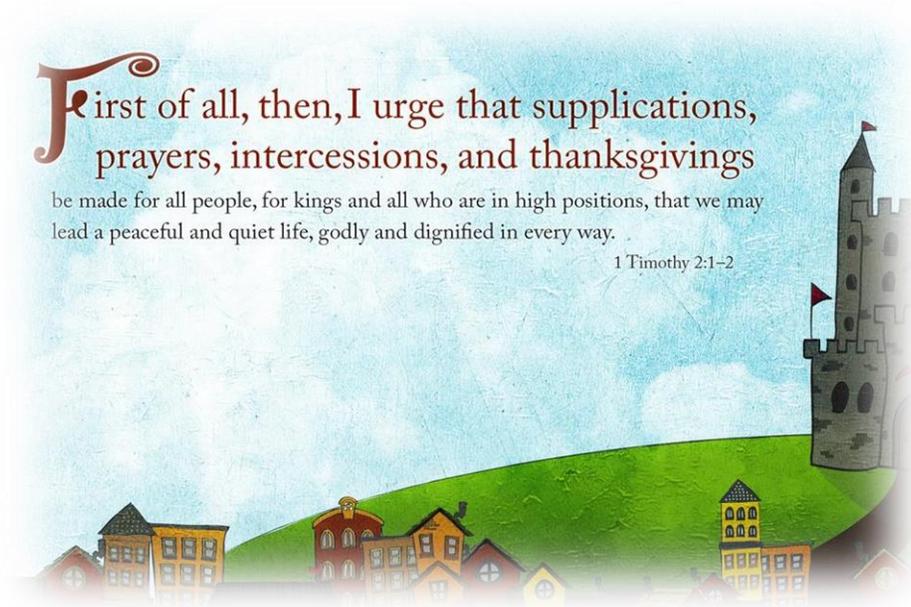
Office Phone: 303.444.7434

peacelutheranboulder.org

First of all, then, I urge that supplications,
prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings

be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may
lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Timothy 2:1-2



Pastor Jesse Stern

Cell: (720) 315-0910

E-mail: pastor@peacelutheranboulder.org

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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2017

In the name of Jesus, who paid our ransom fully & freely, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Today, as we rejoice in the knowledge of the Truth, we recognize God's patient grace towards us & the blessing we have to live in it to his glory.



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!

To worship the God of Order in a fitting & orderly way (*1 Cor. 14:33, 40*), we'll use the path of worship printed in this booklet. Today, we worship Jesus, who bids us pray, "*for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness*" (*1 Timothy 2:2*), as we consider the worship-theme:

Our Civil Responsibilities

Portions of today's worship service are reprinted with permission from [Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal](#) (pg. 15 in the front part of the white-page hymnal) under OneLicense.net #A-727237.

Video Magazine : The WELS Connection

By the Savior's grace, we aren't alone in our mission to proclaim Christ. This month's edition of the WELS Connection reminds us of the blessings we enjoy as a body of believers & the gospel work we are so blessed to do.

Opening Song: God of Grace and God of Glory (red hymnal, 523, vv. 1-3)

As today's service ponders the civil responsibility of Christians, worship begins with a glad petition that the God of grace & glory would grant us his grace so that we, in living faith, may exist to give him glory in all things.



*God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.*

*Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From our fears that long have bound us,
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.*

*Cure your children's waring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.*

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!

Our Confession of Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship service 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, and gathered in God's presence, we confess our sins:

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

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!

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen!

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.

Lord of the nations, bless every effort to establish peace among the nations of our world. Give wisdom and strength to those who lead. Guide those who make decisions. Transform the hearts of people everywhere to exalt peace above war, justice above gain, and honor above glory. Lord, bless our land that we, your people, might have peace in our lives and opportunities to witness to your love.

Sung response printed on page 5



*Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.*

A Reading from Nehemiah 2:1-9 (this translation is the NIV84)

Nehemiah lived & worked for King Artaxerxes in Susa – far removed from his fatherland in Israel. But notice the elegant faith & the careful respect with which he serves his earthly ruler & his heavenly King. Admirable.

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before,² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid,³ but I said to the king, **“May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”**

⁴The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven,⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

⁶Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” **It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.**

⁷I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?⁸ And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king’s forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” **And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.**⁹ So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

This is God's Word.

Amen!

Sung Response : Lord of all Nations, Grant Me Grace (red hymnal, 521, vv. 1 & 2)

Middle hymn of today's worship recognizes those next to whom we live & to whom we're blessed to reflect the Gospel-light; in doing so, it recognizes that we live to serve our Savior in thanks & to serve our neighbors in love.



***Lord of all nations, grant me grace
To love all people, ev'ry race,
And in each person help me view
My kindred, loved, redeemed by you.***

***Break down the wall that would divide
Your children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbors' good let me pursue;
Bind them to me and all to you.***

A Reading from Romans 13:1-7 (this translation is the NIV84)

It's easy to forget that the government is an agency established by God for our earthly good; as such, as we honor God above men with the Gospel on our hearts, we take our pride & prerogative captive to respect our rulers.

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.** ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴ **For he is God's servant to do you good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring

punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ **Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.**

This is God's Word!

It is most certainly true!

Statement of Faith : The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed & Explanation

This second portion of the Apostles' Creed focuses on & highlights the work of the 2nd Person of the Trinity – Jesus Christ, God's Son. It's used today to keep us mindful both of what he's done & also of what that means!

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity; and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom,

and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and live and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 22:15-22 (this translation is the NIV84)

A discussion on the politics of the day was meant to trap the Savior in his words. But Jesus sees through the trap to instill the truth: in thankful love for our God, the highest authority, we give our government what is due it.

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ **Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?**”

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹ **“Caesar’s,” they replied.**

Then he said to them, **“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”**

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of our Lord!

Praise God!

After today’s gospel lesson, the children may come forward for a messaged directed toward their hearts.

Sung Response: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace (red hymnal, 521, vv. 3-5)

As Jesus instructs for the support of our government with our honesty, respect, & prayers, we recognize our sin. Final stanzas of this hymn recognize petition forgiveness, bask in Christ’s love, & embolden us to serve willingly.

verses printed on page 9



*Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
By loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
Will hurt my neighbor, Lord, and you.*

*Give me your courage, Lord, to speak
Whenever strong oppress the weak.
And should I be a victim, too,
Help me forgive, rememb'ring you.*

*With your own love may I be filled
And by your Holy Spirit willed,
That all I touch, whate'er I do,
May be divinely touched by you.*

A Sermon Lesson from Nehemiah 2:1-8

This morning's sermon has as its goal to witness the Old Testament believer, Nehemiah, as he went about the civil work given him; through this Word, the same Spirit who worked on Nehemiah's heart works on ours that we might be lead to live our faith & serve those whom the Lord has placed over us.

For the printed text, please refer to the Nehemiah reading on pages 5 & 6 in this booklet.

CHRISTIANS, ORA ET LABOR!

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!

Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

This prayer summarizes the needs & thanksgivings we've considered so far, approaches Heaven's Throne on behalf of those connected to our church & family, & asks for strength in godly living as we walk toward heaven!

Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

Thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom. Thank you for enabling us to serve you without fear.

You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science. For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties.

Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love, honor, and respect each other; lead parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

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

To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and prayers, our petitions and requests.

Hear them all, dear Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

Sung Response: The Lord's Prayer (multicolored songbook, pg. 234)

This lovely melody sets the elegance of the Lord's Prayer to tune as it sings the truths instilled to us & the petitions which, in Jesus' name, we are so blessed to pray knowing that he hears & answers in perfect love.

 ***Our Father in heaven,
we hallow your name.
May your kingdom holy
on earth be the same.
Oh, give to us daily
Our portion of bread.
It is from your bounty
That all must be fed.***

***Forgive our transgressions
And teach us to know
That humble compassion
Which pardons each foe.
Keep us from temptation,
From evil and sin,
For yours is the glory 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).

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†) and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you!

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!

Final Song: God Bless our Native Land (red hymnal, 619)

This final song – so familiar – takes to heart the cherished liberties we enjoy as Americans & the wonderful privilege we have – as Christians – to pray to the Lord of Nations for guidance & grace, protection & peace.



God bless our native land!

Firm may she ever stand

Through storm and night!

When the wild tempest rave,

Ruler of wind and wave,

Do thou our country save

By thy great might.

For her our prayers shall rise

To God above the skies;

On him we wait.

Thou who art ever nigh,

Guarding with watchful eye,

To thee aloud we cry,

God save the state!

Homegrown Faith : our worship concepts meant for your home conversations



How were today's Bible readings cohesive in teaching today's worship topic? What specific portions of those readings do you appreciate most? Why?



How were today's songs cohesive in teaching today's worship topic while emphasizing Christ-for-us? What specific phrase(s) best connect(s) to you?



How did today's sermon show you your sin . . . and your Savior? What from today's sermon can be applied to help strengthen your daily walk with Christ?

The Drop-In Center (open 9a – noon Wed. & Thurs.)

This “care-giver supervised play-space” employs our facility to serve our community. But we need your help & are asking Peace-people to serve as general supervisors who meet folks & answer questions.

Dealing (final class this Tuesday at 6:30p; topic: grief.) *

Life happens. Life hits. Life hurts. It’s not as though Christians don’t deal with issues & situations, we do. This Bible class is designed to help us deal with life-issues in the light of God’s amazing grace.

CROSSfit Relationships (6:30p on Tuesdays in Nov. & Dec.) *

We’re relational creatures; but that doesn’t make relationships easy. This Bible class approaches meaningful relationships via the cross to explore ways by which everyday relationships become healthy.

The Pieces of Peace (6:30p on Tuesdays in Jan. & Feb.) *

Peace Lutheran is a Christian church; that’s visible in our facilities and ministries. This course gets past the physical aspects of our ministry and addresses the important questions on what the Bible teaches.

Advent By Candlelight (Sunday, December 3)

In the chaos of December, this quiet atmosphere serves as a worship experience by women & for women. Still a host of details to work out in connection to this wonderful event, but do RSVP the date!

This Week for Peace Lutheran:

Sunday (10/22):

Monday (10/23):

Pastor at meetings in Ft. Collins

Tuesday (10/24):

10:15a – Manor Care Devotion (Psalm 91)

6:30p – *Dealin’ Bible Class* at Peace (Topic: *Death & Grief*)

Wednesday (10/25): Pastor in Longmont

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

10:00a – *Reformation Impact Bible Study* at

Our Savior’s (*Luther on Preaching*)

Thursday (10/26):

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

6:30p – *Digging Truths, Mining Treasures Bible class* in Longmont

(please speak with Pastor for definite directions)

Friday (10/27):

Saturday (10/28):

Sunday (10/29):

8:30a – *Reformation Impact Bible Study* (topic: *Worship*)

9:30a – Worship (musician: _____?)

4:00p – Rocky Mt. Lutheran High School federation meeting

Notes for the Next Weeks:

As October roars quiet & the calendar looks towards November (already), let’s please take the opportunity to keep the following dates on our hearts & in both our prayers & calendars:

- November 5 – Daylight Savings time ends (set your clocks back an hour!)
- November 5 – Area WELS Reformation service at Bethlehem on Wadsworth (3p)
- November 12 – Council meeting at Peace & Peace Sunday school
- November 22 – Thanksgiving Eve service at Our Savior’s in Longmont (7p)
- November 23-29 – Sterns out of town

Next Sunday’s Service Theme:

Forgiven. Forgive.

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

Genesis 50:15-21 † Acts 7:54-8:1 † Matthew 18:21-35 † Psalm 25