

*December 22, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:00 am Livestream Liturgy*



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor
Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator
Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

Prelude: *Almost There* - arr. Victor Labenske

Greetings & Announcements

The Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P) Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation.

C) **Amen.**

Hymn: *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* (verse 4)



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C) **Amen.**

P) Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection

P) To you, O God,

C) **we lift up our souls.**

You know us through and through;

we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins:

remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways; teach us your paths;

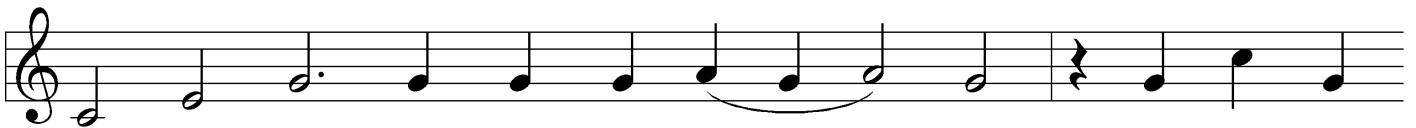
and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness

in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

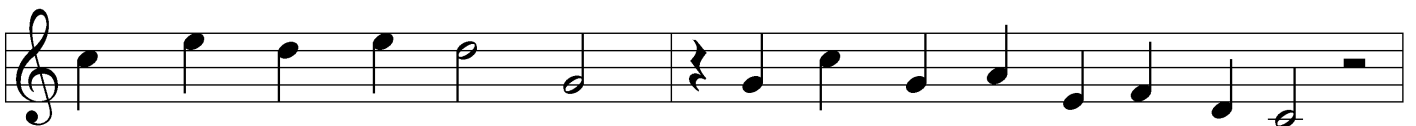
P) In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C) **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



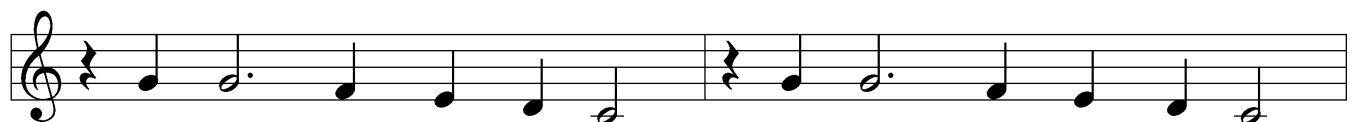
on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



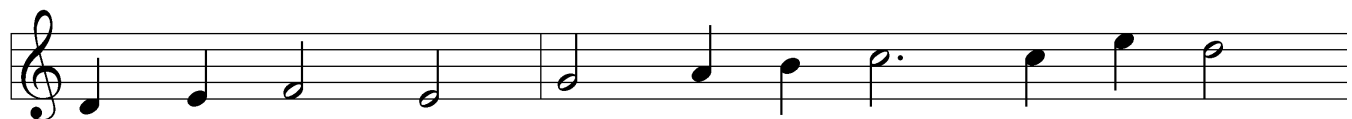
Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



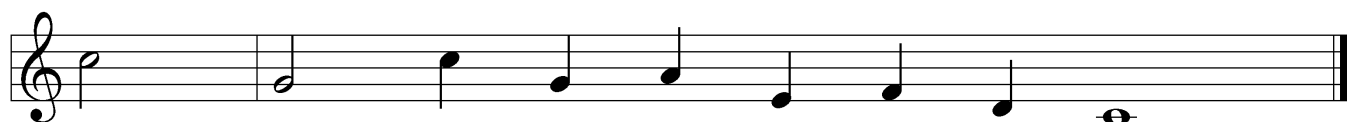
thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we
 what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.
 view where you have bid us dine with you.
 sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

- P) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C) **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
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- P) Let us pray ... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**

+++ **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** +++

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer)

All:

1.3. My soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

you,
heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
 strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
 As you prom - ised to Sar - ah — and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
 kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R) The Word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung twice before the Gospel reading)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music continues with a similar harmonic style, ending with a double bar line.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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P) The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.

C) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

C) Praise to you, O Christ.

**Children's Sermon
Sermon**

Hymn: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Nicene Creed

C) 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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

THE PRAYERS

- P) Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world, the church, and for all people.
A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

- P) Lord, in your mercy
C) **Hear our prayer.**

- P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C) **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C) **And also with you.**

The Offering

We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!



The Offertory

The Little Drummer Boy - arr. Victor Labenske

Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... Savior of the nations, come. Feed us with your love and presence, so that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.
C) **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.
C) **And also with you.**
P) Lift up your hearts.
C) **We lift them to the Lord.**
P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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The Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

P) Holy God, Mighty Lord, Gracious Father,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty,
and for your steadfast love for us and for all creation.

For even when our sin brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy,
and to announce the coming of the Messiah.

And so at this end of the ages
you sent your Son Jesus into the world
to bring us your love, to forgive our sins,
and to give us the gift of eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit upon us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C) Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

C) **Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Music During Communion

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - arr. Cindy Berry

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

- P) Let us pray... God for whom we wait, you make your presence known to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our lives, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

The Benediction

- P) Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Dismissal

- P) Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C) **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Please also join us on:

Christmas Eve Children's Service @ 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Carols & Communion @ 7:00 pm
Christmas Day Worship @ 10:00 am

(all Christmas services in person & [live stream on Facebook](#))

Sunday, December 29

Worship @ 10:00 am

(in person & [live stream on Facebook](#))

The Heat is On! Thanks to the sufficiency of the PoP Building Fund, we now have central heat/AC in the main building and Youth Center! Looking forward, additional contributions will be needed to replenish the Building Fund over time. **Everyone is asked to make an extra donation to [PoP's Building Fund](#)** to provide for our future building needs.

Gifts of Hope – More Meaningful Giving Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift-giving program, supporting ministries of the Metro Washington DC Synod of the ELCA. Donations have helped the homeless, hungry, young, elderly, immigrants, refugees and more – all seeking to improve their lives. Select an organization from the Gifts of Hope catalog and make a donation of any amount. You can make the gift in honor or memory of someone special. Send a digital card to your loved one or contact the [Gifts of Hope Director](#) to have a letter sent. Make your gift at <https://metrocelca.org/gifts-of-hope/> or [gifts-of-hope.square.site](#). Catalogs and cards are in the narthex. Contact [Jennifer Maloney](#) for information.

The Men's Book Club will meet to discuss *It's Your Ship* by Michael Abrashoff **on Thursday January 16 at 7:00 pm.** Dick Moore will be our host.

Haven Universe "Saturday Night Alive!" Non-profit, Haven Universe has been partnering with Prince of Peace for several years and invites you to volunteer (or be a guest!) at HU "Saturday Night Alive." These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. **"Saturday Night Alive" events will occur on the following dates from 4:00-6:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): February 15, March 15, April 5, May 3. (The location of the January 18 event will be the PoP Fellowship Hall, same time!)** Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, gym setup/takedown, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. This is a chance to see God's

work through our hands. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions. We hope you can join us to be a witness of Christ to others!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 11:15 am (immediately following the worship service). At this meeting, we'll hear about plans for 2025, adopt the budget and elect new Council members. Members are encouraged to attend in-person, but may also join by Zoom.

Social Justice Ministry wants to extend our sincere gratitude for the Congregation's generous support and involvement in our outreach projects. Your contributions, whether through your time, effort or donations, made a significant impact on our community. Thanks to your kindness and caring, we were able to provide eight families with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Feast and with gift cards to aid in purchasing addition groceries. The families were so grateful and thankful for your warm-heartedness and compassion. We also recently donated 29.9 pounds of food to the Gaithersburg Help pantry and delivered 52 pairs of glasses in support of Lions Recycle For Sight Program. Gaithersburg Help and the Lions Recycle for Sight Program are ongoing projects. Gaithersburg Help donations may be left in the blue buckets by the entrance doors. There is a box in the narthex for the eyeglasses.

Food for Thought: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

Prince of Peace welcomes people as they are and embraces all the dimensions of diversity in which God has made us: race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, physical ability, and cultural and religious backgrounds, among others. We are all loved by God.

Next Sunday's Readings

[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#); [Psalm 148](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#); [Luke 2:42-52](#)

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