

THE GIFT OF GOD



December 14, 2025

8:00 am

A Savior is Born

The first Christmas sermon was preached to a small congregation consisting entirely of shepherds. The preacher was an angel. The message of his sermon?

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you."

That is a heavy word: Savior. It says as much about us as it does about this child. If the angel had said "a teacher has been born" or "a mentor has been born," it would mean that within us exists the potential to fix all that is wrong with the world. It would mean we just need a bit of help: a coach, a mentor, a source of inspiration. But the angel said, "A Savior has been born."

If one needs saving, it means he is totally helpless... completely lost... doomed, without outside intervention. That is how God the Father viewed us: helpless, lost, doomed. So, he sent more than a coach. He sent his only Son to be our Savior.

May this good news of great joy sink in deeply and give you godly joy this Christmas!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, you call the weary and burdened to yourself, to refresh them and give rest to their souls. Let me experience your love through your Word and Sacrament today. Remove the rags of my flesh and adorn me with the garment of your goodness. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and receive my thanks and praise for your glory. Amen.

Bulletin cover and some interior artwork by Prince of Peace students in 5th to 8th grades.

Preservice music by Prince of Peace piano students.

GATHERING RITE: LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

PLEASE STAND.

The minister sing the refrain once to introduce it. The congregation immediately joins in singing the refrain and sings it again as indicated below.

refrain:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world; Bring us the gift of salvation.

Refrain

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world; Come, now, and bring us your good news.

Refrain


Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel; Come with us on earth here to dwell.

Refrain

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber; Banish the darkness of night.

Refrain

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



A - men.

The Lord be with you.




And al - so with you.

The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.

(echoing the minister)



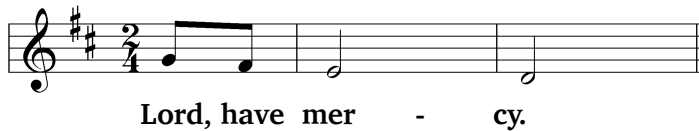
Lord, have mer - cy.



You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. 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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.

Amen.

HYMN 354 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



God Promises a Savior

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this

you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:8-15

HYMN 323 CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

God keeps his promise of a Savior

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:27-38

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN 328 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Oh, gracious and almighty Father, we praise you
for keeping your ancient promises by sending
your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**On this holy morning, receive our thanks and
devotion, our songs and prayers.**

You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate
Your concern for all, the weak
and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the
timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by Your
ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from Your
upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort
and help of Your outstretched hand.

**Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine
assurance that You love and care for us
always.**

You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to
deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of
death and the torment of hell. He took our place.
He was born under the law to set us free. He
became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came
to die and rise again in order that we might live
eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our
hearts and fill us with an eager desire to spread

the Word concerning what we have heard today.

**May all who hear the message, in every nation
under heaven, be amazed and believe what is
told them about this child.**

You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive
out all darkness that would rob us of the full life
that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be
for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on
earth to all on whom His favor rests” be our
peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in
her heart be our treasure.

**For today in the town of David, a Savior has
been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord.
Amen.**

**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.**



OFFERINGS OF THANKSGIVING



In thanksgiving to God for the gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation and all other possessions and blessings, we humbly return to Him from what He has given us. The Lord accepts gifts of love given in thanks; no one should feel obligated to give an offering, it is simply an opportunity to give thanks by supporting the work of the Lord.

*To donate online, either scan this QR code or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page. There is also an offering plate in the entryway if you wish to give that way.*

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

LUTHERAN CONFIRMATION OF LUCAS CRAIG

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

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.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life.

With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who became our substitute under your holy law, who destroyed the works of the devil by his

perfect obedience to your will, who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin, who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward.

Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be delivered from this world to the feast of the Lamb, whose kingdom has no end. Hear us as we pray the words He taught us...

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 Words of Our Lord Jesus

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.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Your + sins are forgiven.

Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

HYMN 353 JOY TO THE WORLD

We thank our Lord for our accompanist, Amy Sehloff and her gifts used to bless us in worship!

