

# Peace Lutheran Church + ELCA

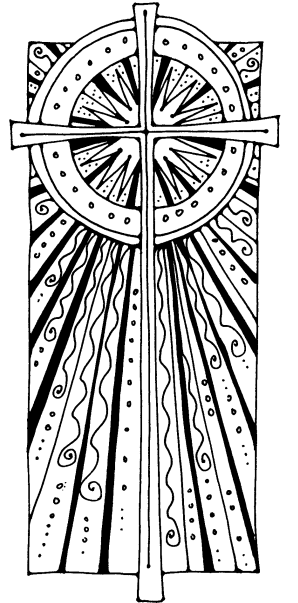
Menomonie, WI

## The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Worship with Holy Communion

9 a.m. Sunday, January 22, 2023

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL UPDATE by Jodi Bird, Council President

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### INVOCATION

We come here as many, varied in backgrounds and perspectives, each with a journey and wisdom to share.

**Whenever we gather, help us to value the diversity that is ours in the body of Christ.**

We join the world's creatures, the earth, sky, and sea, we join with all people in lands far and near.

**All these are neighbors, without them we're less; each one God-created, each one Spirit-blessed.**

We gather this Sunday in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION

In this Epiphany season, rejoicing in the star and magi, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

God of Love and Light...

**We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.**

**We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger.**

**We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.**

**We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.**

**Forgive us Lord, and teach us to walk as children of light, sharing your love, forgiveness and healing with all people everywhere. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:**

**"Let Streams of Living Justice"**

**ELW #710**

**GREETING:**

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

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE:** pg 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.**

**We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.**

**Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.**

**Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts !**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray. **Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:1-4

A reading from Isaiah.

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to Pastor Jon Becker for leading our worship today!

Thank you to our organist, Merna Frank.

Thank you to our volunteers today:

Reader: Jodi Bird

Ushers: Julie Halama and Marlene Schultz



**Announcements:**

Please pick up an Annual report in the Narthex

Giving Statements are ready to pick up.

Any statements remaining after today will be mailed out.

Our Newsletter will be out by Monday.

**Kate will be out of the office from Jan. 25 to March 1.**

**Mary Hendrickson will be assisting in the church office during that time.**

**If you need assistance, please contact**

- ◆ **Mary in the church office**
- ◆ **Jodi Bird, Council President (715-308-3849)**
- ◆ **Any of your Council Representatives**

**Dates To Remember:**

**Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for**

**Sunday, January 29th after the 9 a.m. worship.**

**Please plan to attend. We need 50 people for a quorum.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Visitors and guests, all who believe in the Lord Jesus are invited to come forward and join this family in receiving this gift of life.

### **BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, O God...

**that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may live peace, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

...Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG : "Lift High The Cross"**

**ELW # 660**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live and share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**



## **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY** Psalm 27:1, 4-9

*Please read responsively*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)*

<sup>1</sup>*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

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

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

**Glory to you, O Lord**



*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

<sup>12</sup>**Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.**

<sup>13</sup>**He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:**

<sup>15</sup>**"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—**

<sup>16</sup>**the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned."**

<sup>17</sup>**From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**

**18**As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

**19**And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

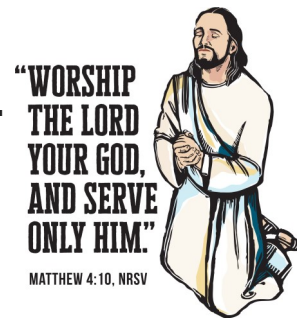
**20**Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

**21**As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

**22**Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

**23**Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“Blessed Are They”***

***ELW # 728***

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit. We trust God.**

**We are called to be God’s church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, as our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Barb Weghorn, Kate Donicht, Tillie Hotchkiss, Sharon Becker, Peter Hybben and the family of Vi Eiseth.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation’s unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.  
**Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Our gracious and giving God...

**...we give back to you today, perhaps not as we ought, but as we are able. Use our gifts in this church and through this church to continue your work and to share the life-changing gift of Jesus. Amen!**

