

Peace, Peace, Precious Peace

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Christmas Day 2021

Bells

Opening Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful | CW 55

All

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels. Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Men

God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father. Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Women

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest. Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

All Stand and Sing

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Invocation Pastor/Congregation

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

Amen.

Responsive Reading

Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up, you ancient doors!
That the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up, you ancient doors!

That the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of angels, he is the King of glory!

Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | **CW 34:1 & 4**

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;

He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;

Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.

Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?

Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,

Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.

Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Salutation and Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be Seated

1. Perfect Peace

Pastor

Peace, peace, precious peace! There was a time when perfect peace reigned on earth, peace between God and mankind, and peace among all God's creatures. In

the beginning of all things God's creatures lived in perfect harmony and peace with each other. Mankind lived in peace with God. There was no sin, and so there were no results of sin such as sickness, pain or suffering. The thought of war was unknown, and there was no death.

All

Even the animals lived in peace with each other. We are told in Isaiah Chapter 11, "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

Choir

Indeed, there was a time when perfect peace reigned on earth, peace between God and mankind, and peace among all God's creatures.

Adult Choir

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

by Brenda E. Austin

Come, O come, O come, O come. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God
appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the
path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Come, O come, O Come, O Come.

2. Peace Lost

Pastor

But this perfect peace was lost when Satan led Adam and Eve into sin. Now instead of peace there was unrest, fear, and agony.

Women

Satan, in the form of a serpent, deceived Adam and Eve and caused them to eat of the forbidden fruit in disobedience to God's command.

Men

Sin separated Adam and Eve from God, and they became friends of Satan. So the perfect peace was lost.

All

This sin passed on to all descendants of Adam and Eve. They were all filled with unrest and fear.

Choir

Mankind was helpless before God, and there was nothing they could do to atone for their sin. They all were lost.

All

This perfect peace was lost when Satan seduced Adam and Eve to sin. In place of peace, unrest, fear, and untold agony reigned.

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten | CW 35:1-3, 5

Choir

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Men

Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

Women

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

All

Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

3. Peace Promised

Pastor

In his great love for his lost children God promised a Savior who would restore perfect peace to mankind. The first promise was given in paradise after Adam and Eve fell into sin. God told Satan in their hearing,

All

"I will put hostility between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed, he will crush your head, and you will crush his heel."

Pastor

Speaking of the coming Savior, God told Abraham,

Men

"In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed."

Pastor

About 700 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied,

Women

"Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

Pastor

The prophet Micah even foretold the city in which Jesus was to be born.

All

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity."

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem | CW 65

Choir

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

Congregation

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

Choir

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

Congregation

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor

This Savior would restore the lost peace to mankind by obeying the commandments of God perfectly and giving his life into death on the cross. Isaiah prophesied,

All

“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

Choir

In his great love for his children, God promised a Savior who would restore this precious peace to us.

Hymn

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | CW 38: 1-3

**“From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**“To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**“This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.**

4. Peace Fulfilled

Pastor

In the fullness of time God sent his Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary. The Evangelist Luke describes the birth of Jesus as follows:

Font Side

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town.

Ambo Side

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

Adult Choir

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

by Gerald Custer

In the darkness, in the silence of the longest night of all, comes a babe, born in a manger, as the stars begin to fall: sent to save us, come to free us, love incarnate, once for all, living mercy, full of grace, love divine, with human face.

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you!

Christ the babe was born for you!

Pastor

And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

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A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y Shall
 3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en And
 4 But now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their



voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And
 branch - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And
 dark - en, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And
 voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And



ev - 'ry stone shall cry, And straw like
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry, Though heav - y,
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry For ston - y
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry In prais - es



gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor
 dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the
 hearts of men; God's blood up - on the
 of the child By whose de - scent a -



heav - en, A stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way To pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us The world is rec - on - ciled.

Pastor

So in the fullness of time God sent forth his Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary.

5. Peace Proclaimed*Pastor*

Angels proclaimed the glad tidings of perfect peace to the shepherds who worshiped the Christ Child.

All

The birth of the Savior was so important to all, that God sent angels to announce his birth.

Hymn*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child | CW 56:1 & 2*

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
 There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
 Such a babe in such a place-Can he be the Savior?
 Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.**

**Angels sang about his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
 Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around them.
 Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.
 All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ringing.**

Pastor

St. Luke tells about the announcement of the Savior's birth: There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night.

Women

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! But the angel said to them,

Men

"Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Choir

Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying,

All

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High | CW 63

Women: Stanzas

All: Refrains

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

Pastor

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Men

Angels proclaimed the glad tidings of perfect peace to the shepherds who worshiped the Christ Child.

Women

The shepherds brought the message of perfect peace to all with whom they came into contact.

Choir

We are told: When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.

Likewise, the wise men who had seen his star in the east came to worship him. When they found the child in his home, they worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

All

Like the shepherds the wise men brought the message of perfect peace to all with whom they came into contact.

6. This Peace Is Ours

Pastor

This message of perfect peace has been brought to us. We believe the message. We join the shepherds and wise men in worshiping the Christ.

All

We confess this faith: 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 lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Choir

In this faith we live at peace with our God, harbor the hope of everlasting life and are content in our Savior. In this faith we kneel at the manger and say, along with Simeon:

All

Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn | **CW 49**

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn! A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory. His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim And sing redemption's story.
My soul, Extol God's great favor; Bless him ever For salvation.
Give him praise and adoration.**

We Gather our Gifts of Love

Prayer of the Church

P: In the marvel of this holy morning, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For family and friends, all those who are near and dear to us, that they may ponder your holy birth and treasure it as Mary did, cling to you in steadfast faith, and find in you their only Savior, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

P: For all who know the joyful news of a Savior born in Bethlehem, that they may spread this good news by word and life to all they meet as the shepherds did in Bethlehem, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For joy in your service, for patience in all trials, for comfort in affliction, and for the assurance of your tender love and care, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For those who have gone before us, who have shared with us the good news of a Savior born for us, whose souls are now at rest with you in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

P: In thanksgiving for all the gifts you have showered on us through the gift of Jesus Christ, your one and only Son, born for us in Bethlehem, we now commend ourselves to your loving and merciful care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord:



C: A - men.

Blessing

P: May he, who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World | CW 62: 1, 3-4

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.**



The poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex
are given to the glory of God by:

- Gib & Ann Trewin in memory of Robert & June Kartos & Marie Trewin
- The Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- The Family of Bea & Bob Gorske in memory of Bea & Bob Gorske
- Loren & Joan Voss in memory of Pastor Verne & Kathie Voss
- Luke & Alyssa Kaspar in memory of Lois Kaspar
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David & Bonny Zarbock & Uncle & Brother David Beske
- Harry Rapp in memory of son Todd & daughter Tanya and wife Sandy Rapp
- David Oelke in memory of his mother & father.
- Jeanne Colla in memory of her son, Michael Colla.
- Mark & Bev Feucht in memory of Wes & Marcella Pade
- Mark & Heather Lueck in memory of Maverick Russart
- Joe & Nancy Birkholz in memory of Bob & June Kartos
- Vicki Brandau in memory of her beloved husband Joel Brandau
- Pastor & Mrs. Boehringer & Family in memory of Zechariah Frederick Boehringer
- Lucille Lohse in memory of Larry Lohse and Lawrence & Georgia Lohse

- Rick & Patti Kreis in memory of their parents, Bill & Sophie Kreis and Lyle & Donna Kegley and their daughter Amy Scott
- Marcella Meyer & Mike Meyer Family in memory of Royal Meyer
- Gary & Addie Jackson in memory of Carey Jean Jackson
- Mark & Betty Orvis in memory of Lorin Orvis and Joseph & Lucille Grailer
- Joy & Brian Schwark Family in memory of Barbara Schwark and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of their daughter Michelle and mother Gertrude Krueger
- Beverly Immel & family in memory of Bev's husband, George and daughter Cindy
- Don & Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill & Mary Lou Vilski
- Bev Bechler & family in memory of Donald (Butch) Bechler
- Gilgenbach family in memory of Richard Gilgenbach
- Will Family in memory of Wendy Tamm
- Dick Putz Family in memory of Lloyd & Virginia Putz, Cliff & Joyce Becker and Floyd Schwecke
- Dale Lubeck Family in memory of Loved Ones
- Vernon & Lila Immel in memory of their son Dean Immel and Allan Kiester, brother of Lila
- Jan Westphal & Family in memory of David Westphal
- Mark & Debbie Weber
- The Family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- Karla Lockwood and John Pitzlin, Jr. in memory of their parents, Barb and John Pitzlin, Sr.
- Pete & Trish Reitz in memory of Trish Prickette
- Stacy & Samantha Behnke and Bob & Dorothy Messner in memory of Angie Behnke

*The special bulletin covers for Christmas Day are given to the
glory of our Savior by Dick & Bev Putz.*