



# Joy

## TO THE WORLD!

*Make a joyful noise unto  
the Lord, all the earth:  
make a loud noise, and  
rejoice, and sing praise.*

PSALM 98:4

**Chr**

# ***Cistmas Day Worship***

**Peace Lutheran Church**

**December 25, 2015**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen**

**P:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

**C:** **and the Word was God.**

**P:** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**C:** **and we have seen His glory.** *(John 1:1,14)*

**RECEIVING GOD'S MERCY AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Dearly beloved of God, we come together this day to hear of the great miracle that God became flesh and dwelt among us. Because He did this in order to free us from our sins, let us first consider our sinfulness and confess our need before God and one another. Together let us seek God's grace and forgiveness, convinced of His love.

*(Silence for reflection)*

P: Almighty God,

**C: Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

*The First Noel*

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**FIRST READING**      *Isaiah 62:10-12*

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. <sup>11</sup> Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." <sup>12</sup> And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Reader:      This is the Word of the Lord.

People:      **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**     *Titus 3:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Reader:     This is the Word of the Lord.

People:     **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**     *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angles sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years Shall come the time fore-told,  
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song Which now the angles sing.

**GOSPEL READING**      *Luke 2:1-20*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."  
<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."  
<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Pastor:        This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:        **Praise to You, O Christ.**



He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## PRAYERS

### THE 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.

## BENEDICTION

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## **CLOSING HYMN**

### *Joy to the World*

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Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its 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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

**DISMISSAL**