

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace

Communion Sunday

Prelude

Steve Wysocki

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, **you are welcome here!**

Announcements

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~

Silence~

Prayer~

Opening Songs: *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord ~ Kyrie*

2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace

Lisa, John and Penelope Pyles

Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus' birth.
All around us people prepare for parties, dinners and presents.
These events can distract us from the real reason for our anticipation.
On the other hand, they also help prepare us;
they could be the voice crying in a wilderness of materialism:
"Prepare the way for the coming of what is really important."

**Rather than get lost in the wilderness of distractions,
we will let the music and the lights make us sensitive
to the voice that is calling for peace.
We will listen for the Word of peace in Isaiah.**

Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.



Lighting the Candle of Peace

Advent Song: *A Story for All People*

Back Cover

Liturgy of Peace

Two candles, burning bright,
Chasing away the darkness with light,

**Sending a glimmer of peace to those in despair,
Letting them know we remember and care.**

Giving a ray of possibility to those who've lost their way,
With this candle of peace, we signal trust in God's new day. **Amen.**

Time for All Ages

Josh Gulotta

Gospel Acclamation: *Ancient Words*

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Prayer Response: *Becoming What We Pray*

Prayers of the Church

Enid Rank

After each petition: Grant us the gift of peace, so we may share the message with others.

Leona, Richard, Lisa Miller, Lee Wagner, Esther Kochar, Donna Bergstresser, Mark Rambo, Sharon Middleton, Beryl LaFond, Danielle Kirchner, The Foote Family, Ashley Viegas, Mary Ann Kolumber, Sheila, Pastor Phil, Karen, Michel Daage, Joyce Staats, Mariah Butterfield, George Suarez, John Conover, Meghan, Tammy Harding, Steven Portnoy, Bill Tone, Keith Schaedel, Gary Brandt, Tiffany Weddle, Kyle

Finally, and together: **You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with peaceful expectation, that in each day and in each hour, we may love and serve our neighbors, in the name of Jesus, whom we love and follow. Amen.**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

December 2025 Special Offering Option

Employee Christmas Bonus - Christ Lutheran Church/Children's Learning Center

Any amount given goes 100% toward supporting our Employee Christmas Bonus Fund which is not included in our Annual Budget.

Offertory: *He Came Down*

ELW #253

Words of Institution *(Please kneel if able.)*

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all."

We gather at this table and remember how on the night when Jesus was handed over, he gathered with his disciples in the upper room and together they shared in an ordinary meal that had extraordinary implications.

For at this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who betrayed him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who denied him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with those who fled from him in his time of need.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with people from all walks of life.

And so whenever we gather at this table to share the bread and the cup in this community of faith, we proclaim Jesus' life, which affirms there is a place at the table for all people, for the love of God transcends every power that tries to contain it.

The Lord's Prayer

Preparation Song: *Sanctuary*

Come to the banquet where no one is turned away, and there is always enough for everyone.

Communion Prayer

Gracious God, as we received this bread and wine, we receive the presence and life of Christ within us so that the spirit of Christ might work through us. Amen.

Closing Song: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Benediction: *God's Peace*

God's peace He gives unto you.

It's a peace that the world cannot give.

It's a peace that the world cannot understand

Peace to know, peace to live,

God's peace He gives unto you.

God's love He gives unto you.

It's a love that the world cannot give.

It's a love that the world cannot understand

Love to know, love to live,

God's love He gives unto you.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

A STORY FOR ALL PEOPLE

BY DORI ERWIN COLLINS

ARR. DANIEL KALLMAN

