

WELCOME

Home

OUR NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Our message is as old as the Word of God to man and as new as the new life it brings:  
*Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to give eternal life to people everywhere.*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

- ☞ **Guest Book:** Before you leave today, please sign our guest book. It is located in the Narthex.
- ☞ **Style:** For those not familiar with the historic liturgical worship style, the interactive nature of the service may seem quite different. We agree with the ancient church that this style allows us to receive the blessings of God's word and offer thanks in response.
- ☞ **Service of the Word:** Today's service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- ☞ **Amplifiers:** Personal sound enhancement receivers are available to help the hearing impaired. An usher will be happy to assist you.
- ☞ **Broadcast:** Today's Service is being broadcast at [www.peacewithgod.com](http://www.peacewithgod.com). Click on the blue box labeled "Live Online Services." It can be viewed LIVE or any time from the collection of archived services.

## OUR WORSHIP SERIES

Read through Scripture and count the times it refers to believers as “brothers and sisters.” You will reach the triple digits quickly. The Holy Spirit is deliberate with his choice of words. If he frequently refers to the Church in those terms, there can be only one explanation. He wants us to think of each other as family. We understand the important roles a mother and father play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. Do we grasp that it is just as important that we have a spiritual family? Scripture teaches that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. Moreover, you can lose a blood relative. They can be taken away from you by death. But you will enjoy the companionship of your spiritual family for all eternity. In this worship series, we will look at how our Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home.

### WELCOME HOME!

*Our Need for Christian Community*

*The Lost Are Now Found*

*You Are Free to Be Yourself*

*You Are Perfectly Safe Here*

*You Have an Everlasting Family*

*You are Part of Christ's Glorious  
Kingdom*

## OUR THEME FOR TODAY

“Army of One” was the shortest-lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others. God knows this. The first time God looked at Creation and noticed something was off, the issue was that an individual (Adam) was isolated. “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Humans are hardwired by God to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So, God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, may God bless you as you listen to his Word today. May he help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need. Welcome home!

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## ✠ Gathering ✠

*Stand as directed*

### OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Love Excelling | 365



1 Love di - vine, all love ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
3 Sanc - ti - fy your new cre - a - tion; Pure and

heav'n, to earth come down, Fix in us your hum - ble  
and O - me - ga be. End of faith as its be -  
spot - less let us be. Let us trust your great sal -

dwel - ling, All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
va - tion, Won for us on Cal - va - ry,

Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion, Bound - less  
We would ev - er seek your bless - ing, Serve you  
Till we lay our crowns be - fore you, Till in

mer - cy from a - bove. Vis - it us with ben - e -  
as your hosts a - bove, Pray and praise you with - out  
heav'n we take our place, Till in glo - ry we a -

dic - tion; Com - fort us with heav'n - ly love.  
ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your per - fect love.  
dore you, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

### INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

*Be Seated*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M:** God has called us to live as family. Yet, our love for God and for each other is not what it should be. Our priorities and choices are often flawed. But the power of God's love enables us to live a new life. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

**M:** Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and empowers us to be his people. 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.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

*After a brief introduction, all sing:*

## TO GOD ON HIGH BE GLORY

## *Gloria in Excelsis*



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,  
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!  
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;  
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it at God the Fa - ther's throne



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** O Lord Jesus Christ,  
preserve the family of believers with your never-failing mercy.  
Bind us together with the bond of your love.  
Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful,  
and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation;  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## ✠ The Word ✠

### FIRST LESSON

### Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

*Scripture says that people are not wired to be rugged individuals. God created us to need one another. Two are better than one. Even better is having Christ as the third strand within a relationship. He provides the love and grace that keeps that bond strong.*

<sup>7</sup> Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> There was a man all alone;  
he had neither son nor brother.  
There was no end to his toil,  
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.  
“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,  
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”  
This too is meaningless—  
a miserable business!

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:

<sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.

<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?

<sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

**M:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 133-134

*Refrain*



*Psalm tone*



How good and pleasant it is\*  
 when brothers live together in unity!  
 For there the LORD bestows his blessing,\*  
 even life forevermore.

*Refrain*

Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD \*  
 who minister in the house of the LORD.  
 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary\*  
 and praise the LORD.  
 May the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth,\*  
 bless you from Zion.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy Spirit,  
 as it was in the beginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

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**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – *Children come forward***

**SECOND LESSON**

**Hebrews 2:9-18**

*Jesus became our brother so that by his suffering, death and resurrection he might unite us to himself and knit us together into a spiritual family.*

<sup>9</sup> But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says,

“I will declare your name

to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**M:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### VERSE OF THE DAY

**M:** Alleluia! I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises. Alleluia!



**C:** Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:25-30**

*Jesus wants us in his family so that he might give us rest and peace.*

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

<sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

<sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

**M:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise be to you, O Christ!





1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -  
 Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the  
 Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the  
 preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in  
 Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it  
 ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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 Tune: IN BABILONE (87 87 D) *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710.  
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**Be Seated**

**SERMON** – See the separate sheet for the Sermon Road Map

**Stand**

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## 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.**

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING – remain seated**

## ✠ Prayers ✠

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Prayers and petitions are made on behalf of the Church*

**M:** Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C:** **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

**M:** You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C:** **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

**M:** Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C:** **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

**M:** Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C:** **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** ... Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **Hear our prayer.**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C:** **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**M:** We pray in Jesus' name and as he taught.

**All: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**M:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## BLESSING

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

## Blest Be the Tie that Binds | 494



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual  
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer  
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain And sin we



Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of  
ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our  
bur - dens bear, And of - ten for each  
bit - ter pain; Yet, one in Christ and  
shall be free And per - fect love and



kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, abr., alt.  
Tune: BOYLSTON (SM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

*Silent prayer*

*Announcements after the close of Service*



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