

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
December 29, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Christian Magnell

PRELUDE

Jan Hanson

CELEBRATION SINGERS *“Come, Follow that Star”*

WELCOME AND GREETING

CELEBRATION SINGERS *“Mary Did You Know?”*

HYMN *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God has called us to this place to hear the Word and respond in praise.

Amen!

That worship begins in the name of

The Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord God, as we worship, there are voices which tell us we don't belong, we're not good enough, somehow we're different. Help us to reflect on our brokenness but even more to reflect on your forgiveness and love. *(time for reflection)*

Father, we confess that we have sinned against you and others. We have done this in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We have not loved you or the world around us. We are sorry and desire to be different. Forgive us and renew our faith.

In the name of Christ, God forgives you of all your sin. He renews you daily by the presence and power of His Holy Spirit!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON *“The Three R's: Reject, Receive, Reflect”*

HYMN *“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”*

READING: Proverbs 1:8-19

Listen to this wisdom, this instruction, and put it to work in your life.

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say,

“Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; 12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; 13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill

our houses with plunder; 14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”— 15 my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, 16 for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. 17 For in vain is a net spread in

the sight of any bird, 18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. 19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

READING: Colossians 3:1-17

You have a new way of seeing the world in Christ. It's time to stop some things and to start others as Paul explains.

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: John 15:12-17

Jesus is clear in this passage: love others. He is our model. He laid down his life and calls us to love with sacrificial love.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I

have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I

command you, so that you will love one another.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

HYMN *“No Longer Slaves”*

SERMON - “Live New”

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *“Come to the Table”*

PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG *“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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**Sacrifice? – January 5, 2025**

**“Greater love has no one than this,  
that someone lay down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13**

Would you die for the people you love? Of course you would. Most people would quickly give their lives for their spouse, parents, children, close friends, and more.

But would you sacrifice? Would you lay down your preferences in the small things for the sake of others?

Sometimes this passage is so expansive, so clear, so stark, that it’s easy for us to say “Yes, of course I’d do that.” Reality might be different when we’re faced with the choice of one life for another. But most of us would at least desire to give up ourselves for the sake of others. Where it gets tricky is making sacrifices in the smaller things: your schedule, your finances, your hobbies, or maybe how you spend your weekend.

Are you willing to sacrifice in the small things for the sake of others?

One of the cultural pieces I love at Peace Lutheran Church is that crying kids don't seem to faze people. We know that a crying child is one of the side effects of having kids in worship and that's a "sacrifice" most people are willing to make (although, it's not really a sacrifice, it's an incredible honor to walk alongside the parents!). But what about other things in our lives? Are we willing to love others so much that sometimes we put their preferences ahead of ours? Isn't this the heart of parenting, for example?

This week I encourage you to find ways to live out Jesus' words to love others as He has first loved us.