

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to Peace – your presence here enriches our community.

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Today as we mark the Baptism of our Lord we also pay attention to the stewardship of water on Earth—particularly the oceans, the "life engine" for our planet home. The use and disposal of plastics have emerged in recent decades as a major threat to the health of Earth's oceans, their creatures and habitats, and to the health of our own species as well. A major focus of our ministry of Creation Care in 2024 will include exploring this issue and inviting us to reform our use of plastics.

Our baptismal vocation includes not only stewarding our lives but caring for the watersheds which supply us with the water that fills our fonts and for the oceans to which all rivers flow.

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We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

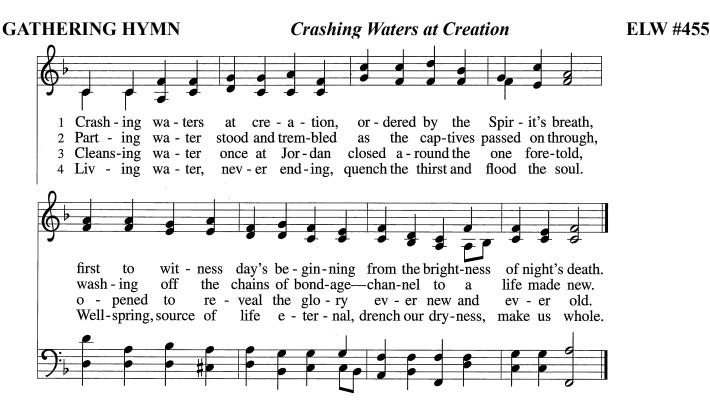
+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INVOCATION *Please stand as able in body or spirit as we gather at the font.*

- P In the name of the Spirit of God, who hovered over primal waters. In the name of the Word of God, who parted the waters for Earth to appear. In the name of the + Wisdom of God, who filled the deep with amazing designs!
- C Holy! Holy! The oceans are filled with God's presence!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Creator God, our Source and our Goal, with ancient stars you seeded Earth with water, establishing seas from which all life would evolve. And at this end of the ages you became one with us, making your appearance through the waters of Mary's womb. As you claimed Jesus as beloved Son in Jordan's waters, make us, too, your beloveds, and empower us by your Spirit to be your faithful followers, living out our baptismal vocation through care-full stewardship of Earth's precious waters. Through him in whom we find fullness of life, both now and forever.

C Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS Please be seated

- P The shell I hold aloft, a symbol of the ocean's fecundity, is filled today with plastic debris of various sizes, shapes and colors. Purveyors of convenience, we've used and then discarded them; and they've made their way from our hands, our medicine cabinets, and our washing machines, into the sea.
- P Creator of all, we confess that we have become alienated from Earth.
- C We have viewed this planet as disposable, a source for our endless appetites, a mere stopping place enroute to heaven. And we are sorry.
- p We confess that we have soiled Earth's waters with toxins and filled her oceans with plastics.
- C The symptoms of our greed are evident in the climate crisis unfolding in water, land, and air. And we are sorry.
- P Dearly Beloved, Christ hears our confession and our desire to change. In the waters of baptism he calls our names and reminds us where we come from and whose we are.
- C Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and restore us to our calling as peacemakers, stewards, and keepers.

All sing:



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-10

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light.

God created and continues to create new life.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Holy wisdom. Holy word. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 CHORAL PSALMODY

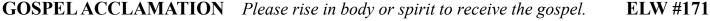
M. Mummert

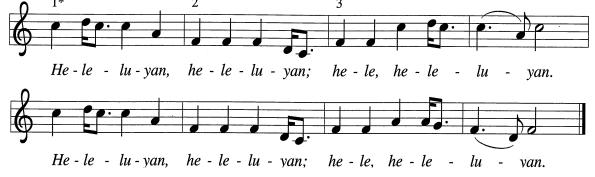
Congregation joins on each refrain



CHOIR

- 1. Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. **Refrain**
- 2. The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe, and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord, all are crying, "Glory!" Refrain
- 3. The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore. O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. Refrain





- The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter. P
- Glory to you O Lord. \mathbf{C}

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Shall We Gather at the River?

arr. John Carter

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Erik

SERMON Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring

ACS #1046



THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all creation.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

- God of grace, Α
- receive our prayer \mathbf{C}

When all petitions have been offered:

- Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of P our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

- The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you. \mathbf{C}

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure <u>Tithely Giving Page</u> via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW #740

TUNE: GOD OF THE SPARROW

God of the ocean, God of the creek, God of the salmon leaping, How does the creature say Holy? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the orca, God of the seal, God of polluted waters, How does the creature cry Woe! How does the creature cry Save!

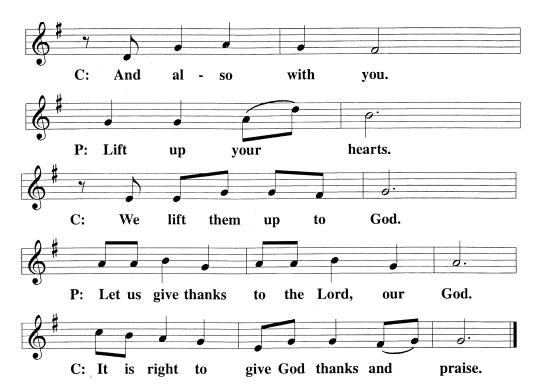
God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God who gives living water, How does the creature say Grace! How does the creature say Thanks!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- Let us pray.
- Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

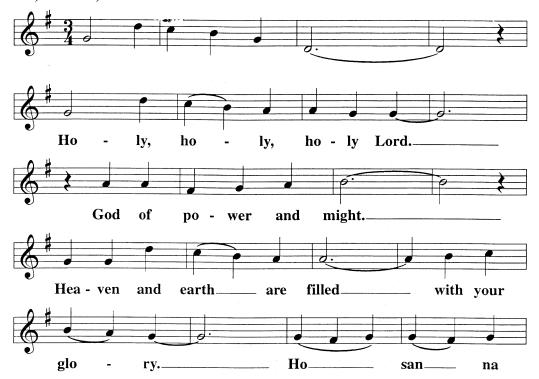
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

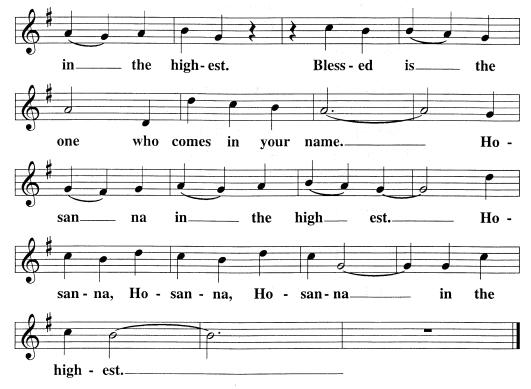




P It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who is your Living Water welling up to eternal life. And so with the church on Earth, all creation and host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator and Sustainer of all, you formed the Earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,

with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed your Chosen people and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, night be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through baptismal waters,

yoking us to the life, death, and resurrection of your Beloved Son, Jesus, who in the night in which he was handed over to death, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:

- C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- C This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for forgiveness and healing. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

 Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Satisfy the thirst of every living thing with your Living Water, and fit us for service as keepers and partners of all you have entrusted to us, through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ecumenical)

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:
- C 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P At Jesus's table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

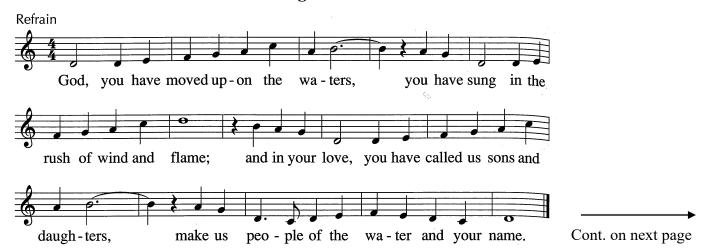
CALL US HOME

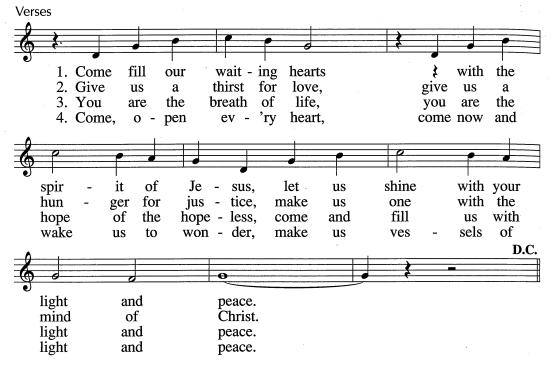


COMMUNION HYMN

Song Over the Waters

GC #559





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. God our Source and our Goal, you have called us through the waters of rebirth and fed us at this table with gifts which sustain the life of the world. As salmon smolts leave their natal streams for the ocean, send us forth from this gathering renewed in our commitment to offer all that we have and all we are for the sustenance of our planet home. In Jesus' name.

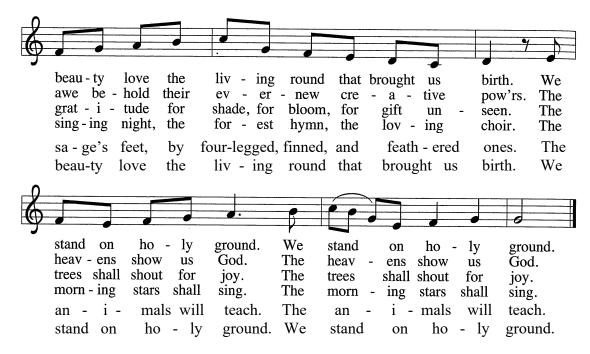
C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

- P The Triune God, Holy One, Holy Three, grant you grace, mercy, and peace overflowing, that you may walk with sacred manner upon Earth.
- C May it be so! Amen.





DISMISSAL

A Go in peace, walk wet in the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In consideration for those who wish to remain for the postlude, those who depart are invited to do so quietly.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Rev. Erik Kindem

Minister of Music Jon Lackey Liturgical Assistant Paul Bliss

Acolyte Kimberly Simmons

Lector Julie Ward
Children's Sermon Pastor Erik

Greeters Corinne Otakie, Randy Hernandez
Ushers Barbara Hillier, Kristin Gimelli Hemme

Altar Care Liz & Randy Hernandez

Communion Assistants Liz & Randy Hernandez
Coffee Server Creation Care Team

Production Techs Alan Jarvimaki, Alex Wren

Counters Kristin Gimelli Hemme, Randy Hernandez

Nursery Attendant Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your generous giving during the final month of 2023!

Offering Income received December 2023

12/03/23 \$ 2,417.00 12/10/23 \$ 1,982.39 12/17/23 \$ 3,371.00 12/24/23 \$ 4,761.01 12/31/23 \$ 2,485.00 Electronic \$16,001.67 **Total** \$31,018.07

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Sometimes the simplest acts can make a huge difference. Today as we focus on the importance of water, we ask you to go home and check your faucets! At 1 drip per second, a faucet can leak 3,000 gallons per year. When you consider that the average American family of four uses around 400 gallons of water per day at home, that drip is a big deal, equaling more than a week's worth of water usage for that average family. Not to mention that 1 in 8 people worldwide do not have access to safe and clean drinking water. Let us be grateful for water.

Pray for Creation: This week we pray for an adequate supply of life-giving, clean water for all of God's creation.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2023

Sunday, January 28, is our Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck.

Please add it to your calendar!

Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- JANUARY 14 Draft Budget review following worship (if needed).
- JANUARY 16 Church Council meeting to finalize Annual Meeting agenda and draft budget.
- JANUARY 21 Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available.
- JANUARY 28 Annual Potluck and Meeting following worship in the Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your 2023 annual reports to the office in digital form if you have not done so already.

A LOOK AHEAD

Our Liturgical Frame during this season comes from <u>Call Us Home</u>, by Susan Granata and Bob Leon. Special emphases will be noted on <u>January 14</u> – MLK Sunday, and <u>January 21</u> – RIC Sunday (also our Pass the Hat Sunday for January – supporting Reconciling Works and LGBTQIA work among Lutheran congregations and ministries nationally.) <u>Laura Bermes</u> will serve as guest preacher on January 21st. Our congregational meeting (this year with POTLUCK!) will take place after worship on <u>January 28th</u>.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

Offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex for those households who use them.

ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL COMING UP

Would you like to serve as a member of our congregation's Church Council? There are leadership positions on the Council opening up in January. The council meets once a month to support our ongoing mission, including the discussion of budgets, policies, and the operations of the church. Church council members are the governing body of the church in between congregational meetings. They work as liaisons between the council and all the church committees and ministry teams. The council is comprised of a group of individuals who work hard to maintain a positive, Christian experience for everyone who attends Peace Lutheran Church. **We need you!** If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Vicki Martinez, Erika Stephens, or Chris Kindem. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 28th. There is also an opening in the Audit Committee.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Cay Bell; Mary Brocker; Jan Burt; Heidi Coy; Karl Coy; Larry Cruse; Marsha Davis; Laura Dwyer; Joe Flint; William Gerhardt; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Nancy Hauger; Donna Heiland; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Ken Keyes; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Pete McIntyre; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Rachel; Jill Remsey; Irma Runge; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

<u>Homebound</u>: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Jan Madsen

<u>We express our Christian sympathy</u> to the Lamson family on the death of Lee Lamson on 12/29/23 and also to the Menstell family on the death on 12/31/23 of Terry Menstell, Elizabeth and Katharine's father.

<u>PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST</u> We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and



brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual

orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

PERMISSIONS

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