

EPIPHANY/FLIGHT TO EGYPT



Refugees: The Holy Family © Kelly Latimore. Used by permission

JANUARY 4, 2026

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington



The feast of the Epiphany concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. The journey of the Magi following the star reminds us that the glory revealed in Jesus is meant for all nations and peoples. But Matthew's gospel also tells us that God's light manifest in the Christchild will be opposed by the powers of the world, like Herod, who violently resisted having his reign challenged. Following the visit of the Magi, and guided once again by a dream, the holy family becomes a refugee family, fleeing Herod's wrath in a search for safety and welcome until the threat upon their lives has passed.



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 ✝

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* A – *Assisting Minister* L – *Lector*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal* ACS – *All Creation Sings*

PRELUDE

BLESSING OUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR 2026 *Our service begins in the narthex.*

P In the name of the Word made Flesh, + Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

p Before we speak, God is here.

C **Living God, open what is closed that the Spirit may come in.**

P Open our hands, to give and to greet.

C **Open our minds to new truth and old wisdom.**

P Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance.

C **Open what is closed, that the Spirit may come in.**

The presider marks the threshold to the nave for the new year. 20+C+M+B+26
Christus Mansiones Benedictus is translated: “Christ bless this house.”

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

This is a Day of New Beginnings

TUNE: ST. CLEMENT

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
a time to believe what love is bringing, and laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus, love’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference as faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past, and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

GREETING

P The abounding grace of the incarnate Christ, the steadfast love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

GLORIA

Glo - ry to God

— in the high-est, Glo - ry to God.

Glo - ry to God — in the high-est, Glo - ry to God.
 — Hear all the saints and an - gels — pro -
 claim God's ho - ly name. Crea-tures of sky and o -
 — cean — con - tin - ue the re - frain. —
 Glo - ry to God — in the high-est, Glo - ry to God.
 — Glo - ry to God — in the high - est,
 Glo - ry to God. — You know that hea - ven & earth
 — can-not hold back their joy — and their
 song ex-plodes — in gra - ti - tude for
 all God's gi - ven; won - drous deeds,
 hea - ling peace and so — we sing. —
 Glo - ry to God — in the high-est, Glo - ry to God. —

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, Glo-ry to God.

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, Glo - ry,

Glo - ry to our God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice over all lands and peoples, and as you protected the infant Jesus and his family, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Julie Ward

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL PART 1: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

GOSPEL HYMN: *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no

Continued on next page →

heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

GOSPEL PART 2: Matthew 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³ Now after [the Magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
 wailing and loud lamentation,
 Rachel weeping for her children;
 she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

Time for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

ACS #1060



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
 2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
 3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
 leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
 and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,
 through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,
 Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
 guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
 help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Chris Kindem

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

A Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

When all petitions have been offered:

P With steadfast faith in your accompaniment through, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

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 [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE.



Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!

OFFERTORY VERSE

ELW #279

♪ O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of glory,

C **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.**

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: May God be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P Truly it is right and joyous to offer thanks and praise to you, O God, in all places and in all circumstances of life, but especially so on this day when we celebrate the light of Christ illuminating the Earth and revealing your promises. And so with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all the saints and angels in heaven and on earth, we raise our voices with a never-ending hymn of praise!

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Page 190



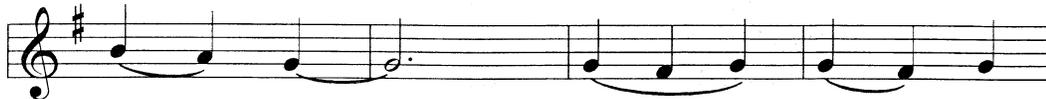
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.



God of po - wer and might.



Hea - ven and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho san na



in the high - est. Bless - ed is the



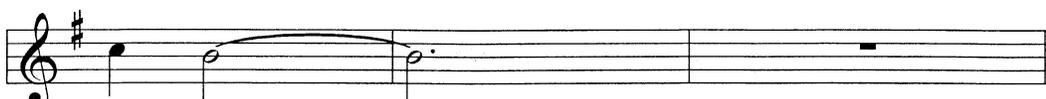
one who comes in your name. Ho -



san na in the high est. Ho -



san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the



high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(ecumenical)*

P Trusting in the One who made his home with us, we pray the prayer of Jesus:

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 God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

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

God, Cre - a - tor, _____ call us home. God, Christ
Je - sus, _____ call us home. _____ God, Ho - ly Spi - rit, _____ call us
home. God, we're long - ing _____ to come home. ^{1.} _____ ^{2.} _____ home.

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

ELW #261

1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
3 As the moon re - flects the sun
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,
so we a - wait your light. O Star of
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
un - til the night's de - cease, may we your
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
 † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

ELW #301, vs. 5-6

5. Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.
6. And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray,
 with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ the way, the truth, the life!

DISMISSAL

A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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206-930-3172

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Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

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Church Office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

206-427-6496

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

Music@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Chris Kindem
Acolyte	Mateo Leon-Stephens
Lector	Julie Ward
Children's Sermon	Julie Ward
Greeters	Corinne Otakie, Nancy Hauger
Ushers	Audrey Zemke, David Kehle
Altar Care	Julie & Ben Ward
Communion Assistants	Julie & Ben Ward
Coffee Server	Jean Sides
Production Techs	Dustin Smith, Alex Wren
Counters	Katheen Keyes, Erika Stephens
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received December 2025

12/07/25	\$ 3,065.00
12/14/25	\$ 3,655.00
12/21/25	\$ 4,299.37
12/24/25	\$ 548.00 plus \$548 for ELCA flood relief
12/28/25	\$ 300.00
<u>Electronic</u>	<u>to be determined</u>

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Let's *all* resolve to help our native pollinators survive and thrive this year! We'll help you keep the resolution, starting with a Bee House Building event after our Feb. 1 service. Put it on your calendar today and then watch for more information all month. It'll *BEE* great!

Pray for Creation: Rekindle our sense of awe for the intricacies and beauty of your magnificent creation.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 AVAILABLE

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available for pick-up for those of you who do not donate electronically. They are on a counter in the narthex closest to the kitchen.

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026, IS OUR FIRST SUNDAY FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Today is First Sunday Food for our Neighbors—a great way to share the grace and promise of Christmas. **January's special focus: shelf-stable proteins of all kinds: nut butters; tinned sardines, tuna, salmon; packaged cheeses; canned chili and stews, beans; Spam, corned beef, ham —and more.** Other foods welcomed, too, by our neighbors served by our Little Free Pantry, The Welcome Table, and the White Center Food Bank. Bring them to the chancel before next Sunday's worship service. We'll deliver them to our grateful neighbors. Thank you.

MONDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY RESUMES 1/5/26

Weekly Monday evening Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Paul Winterstein resumes Monday, January 5 (Twelfth Night!), 7 pm. Focus: Scripture readings for Sunday, January 11.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2026

Sunday, January 26, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please add it to your calendar! We will have options for people to join the meeting in person and through two online platforms. Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- **JANUARY 4** – All annual reports from Peace ministries, committees, and task forces are due in the church office (electronic form, please!)
- **JANUARY 13** – Church Council meets to finalize Annual Mtg agenda and 2026 budget proposal.
- **JANUARY 18** – Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available as PDF.
- **JANUARY 25** – Annual Potluck and Meeting following worship.

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! We are in need of 4 new council members—2 three-year positions, 1 two-year position and 1 one-year position. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Chris Kindem, Elizabeth Menstell Coyle. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 25th.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Georgia Apodoca; Marlen Boivin; Deric Bevier; Jan Burt; Cindy Collie; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Jeffrey Epley; Pio Escame; Stephen Fuller; Barb G.; Jon Gault; Nick Griffin; Donna Heiland; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Mel Jacob; Peter Kalen; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; John Lindsay; Dan M; Evelyn Martinez; Carol Mikesell; Katrina Moore; Ginger Nehrbass; Kathy Peters; Melissa Peterson; Michelle Pierce; David Porch; Gail Price; Wes Price; Kelly Renfro; Sarah; Robert Shampain; Aaden Smith; Nancy Spannaus; Sarah Taylor; Benjamin Toso; Tracy and Ralph; Kristy W.; Angela Walker; Pam Webber; Megan Webber; Jeannette Whitworth; Willy; Paul Winterstein.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Inta Zagars
PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST 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 recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism.

We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

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