



Peace Lutheran Church
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Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 29, 2012 ~ 11:00 AM
Service of Holy Communion

Called by Christ to love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves, Peace Lutheran Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, offers help, hope, and healing to all in need.

PRELUDE “Largo” by Handel; “Melody” by Gluck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars.

C **Amen.**

P Let us come before God, confessing our sin. Holy and merciful God,

C **we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.**

P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (ELW 310)

GREETING (ELW p. 139)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

PSALM: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good under standing. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21–28

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

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

The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**
SERMON: Pastor Jeff Driscoll

HYMN OF THE DAY: *There Is a Balm in Gilead* (ELW 614)

APOSTLES CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Church: ELCA, Maasae Lutheran Girl's School;

Military

Missionaries: Kristina Andersen

Continued Care: Selvin Stensen, Dorothy Madson, Doris Ohde, Sharon Daoura, Sandi Nysether, Judy Bressler, Randy Libby, Jyoti Mutschler, Darlene Crouch, Dennis Whitney, Rob Delbrauk, Peggy Parker, John Gedstad, Grace Dahline, Jenny Burgess, Hazel Allen, Dolly Pachur, Alice Jacobs, Audrey Carlson, Leilani Erps, Nate Maher, Renae Cupic, Cille Krock, Jack Pryor, Carol Maurstad

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING "Offrande" by Peeters

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)

PREFACE (ELW p. 144)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION “Schmuche Dich” setting by Anne Organ; “Living God” setting by David Cherwien

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

C The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)

POSTLUDE “Prelude and Fugue in A Minor” by Bach



Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church! We are pleased that you chose to join us in worship on this Fourth Sunday After Epiphany. If you are a first time visitor we encourage you to sign our guest. All are invited to stay and share in refreshment and conversation immediately following this service.

Happy Birthday to Jeffrey Highland! May God's blessings be yours today and always!

Staff

Pastor: Jeffrey Driscoll
Parish Worker: Debra Compton
Youth & Family Worker: Mary J Fuentes
Nursery Supervisor: Ashley Stoffel
Musician: Jeffrey Highland

Worship Participants

Head Usher: Jon Glastra
Usher: Tammy Hoffmeister
Greeter: Cody Hoffmeister
Lector: Linda Anderson
Acolyte: Jody Hoffmeister
Communion: Coni Moyer

This Week At Peace Lutheran Church

Monday	10:00 am	Women's AA Meeting
	11:00 am	Staff Meeting
Tuesday	Annual Reports Due	
	12:00 pm	AA Meeting
Wednesday	10:30 am	PLCW Board Meeting
	11:30 am	PLCW Lunch & Meeting
	6:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study w/Jeff
Thursday	9:30 am	LWR Work Party
Friday	12:00 pm	AA Meeting
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Sunday School Hour
	11:00 am	Worship Service

Haiti Earthquake: Two Years Later

By Nikki Massie



Aftershocks, widespread migration, a cholera outbreak — those are just a few of the challenges the people of Haiti have faced since the devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake **two years ago**. And that's on top of the endemic poverty the small country has struggled to overcome for decades.

In response to the earthquake, Lutherans in the U.S. gave more than \$7 million to support the Lutheran World Relief emergency response, allowing LWR to provide quick and efficient relief. Thanks to that compassionate generosity, LWR has made a long-term commitment to the people of Haiti, to stay the course and see communities through this disaster — and beyond.

Here are just a few of the success stories of our work over the past two years.

*“...these gifts go beyond the physical objects
and help transform lives.”*

Right after the quake, an outbreak of cholera — a potentially fatal intestinal infection — swept across Haiti. The students at Cristo Roi de Corail school, just outside Leogane, had not yet been affected by the outbreak. Still, LWR and partners aimed to make sure families knew how to stay safe.

Good hygiene is key to staying healthy. That's why, along with a Personal Care Kit distribution, LWR offered students and their families cholera prevention training.

The pairing makes good sense, explains Trevor Knoblich, LWR's program coordinator for emergency response, who also attended the distribution.

“In the Kits, families get tools to stay healthy right here and now. Through the cholera prevention training they learn how to stay healthy in the long term.”

“The real impact Lutherans make when they give these gifts of their hearts and hands is immeasurable,” adds Melanie Gibbons, LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry coordinator. “These gifts go beyond the physical objects and help transform lives.”

You may have seen the beautiful craftsmanship of Haitian artisans within the pages of the LWR Hand-craft Project catalog.

After the quake, many Haitian artisans lost equipment, work space and critical production time. Many faced the same shelter, food and health concerns as their fellow quake survivors, making it even harder to recover.

LWR and partner Fondation pour le Développement d'Artisanat Haitien (FDAH) are helping artisans recover by offering training sessions teaching new production techniques and marketing skills to increase income, along with health training where artisans can learn and ask questions about cholera, hygiene and other health concerns.