

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
202 Van Buren Street
Evans City, Pennsylvania 16033-1127
(724) 538-5810



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Pastor Brandon Johns
November 29, 2020
10:15 am Worship Service

Advent Reflection

In this season when the cultural gravity pushes us down the hill to Christmas way too fast, it's time to apply the brakes and slow down. As countercultural as that may seem, there's too much to hear, too much to see, too much to experience, too much to take in to hurry through Advent. We sit with Isaiah and his people who longingly waited for the coming of the Promised One. We stand with John the Baptist as he calls God's people to prepare the way of the Lord.

This slowing down makes room for the Spirit to show us those things in our own hearts and in our own congregations and systems that we might rather leave undisturbed and unacknowledged. The Advent scriptures urge repentance, another practice that is best not hurried through. It may not be pleasant to acknowledge the places in our lives where we have wandered; nor is it delightful to hear a word about a God who has standards and who is angry at both individual and corporate sin. Still, that word stands front and center in the Advent scriptures.

However, care is required in our reflection, so these texts don't become another set of "shoulds," a burden of yet one more thing to do when we are already pressured by full calendars, long to-do lists, and overwhelming expectations. Rather, in the way of the gospel, the call and the demand can come to us as invitations to enter into the life of God, who is about to change everything in the gift of Christmas.

Which brings us to perhaps the most countercultural message of all, the message at the heart of the Advent season, indeed the entire Christian faith—that God is about to come, not as an angry judge but as a human among us. This is good news upon which to linger and for which we patiently prepare. Allowing the time to pause here in Advent will reap the rewards of patient, thoughtful, prayerful preparation for God's coming among us.

(Adapted from Sundaysandseasons.com first published in *Sundays and Seasons: Year B 2021*, copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress)

BELL RINGING

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*The first candles is lit as "Light One Candle" is sung
by Jack Erin & Jocelyn Thomas*

ADVENT LITANY: And the Word was God

(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards we sing immediately with the music.)

***Behold, the gifts of God made flesh
To stir the heart, the soul refresh.
The presence of the Lord is known;
In Bethlehem his gift is shown.***

Stir up.

Stir up your power, O God.

It is the power that called "light" out of darkness.

It is the power that called "freedom" out of slavery.

It is the power that called "life" from the cruel cross.

Your power is stirring up our hearts.

***Stir up, O God, within our hearts
The saving grace that faith imparts,
That we may trust you all our days
And follow, sure, your righteous ways.***

Stir up within the hearts of your people, O God, the embers of faith.

Let it burn within us, refining away the dross of sin.

Let it glow without us – bright evidence of our joy in your resurrection power.

Let it warm us as we wait, in this cold world, for the coming of your Son.

*With hearts on fire and lives aglow
Make us bright beacons here below
That all the world might see our love
And glorify you, God, above.*

One candle burns, driving away the darkness and sparking faith within our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly.

*Thus present-laden cause the shift
That changes “gifted” into “gift.”
Let us your “present presence” be
Rich gifts of faith for all to see.*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence -
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.⁷The cow and the bear
shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
- ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—
⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—
⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

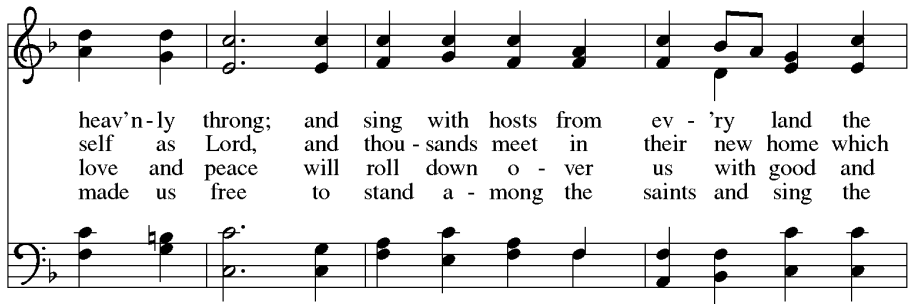
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

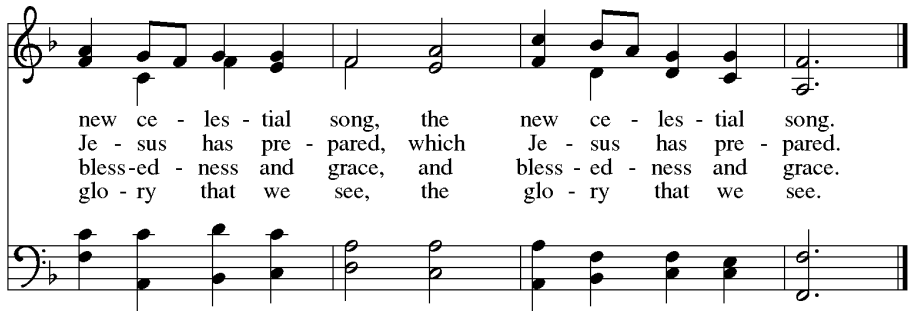
HYMN OF THE DAY: Oh Happy Day When We Shall Stand



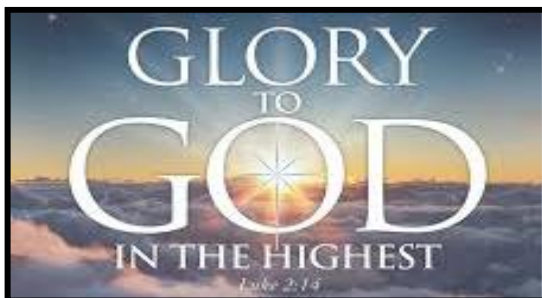
1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throug; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

The response for each petition is:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Came Down* by Lily, Anna, and Kate Johns

OFFERING

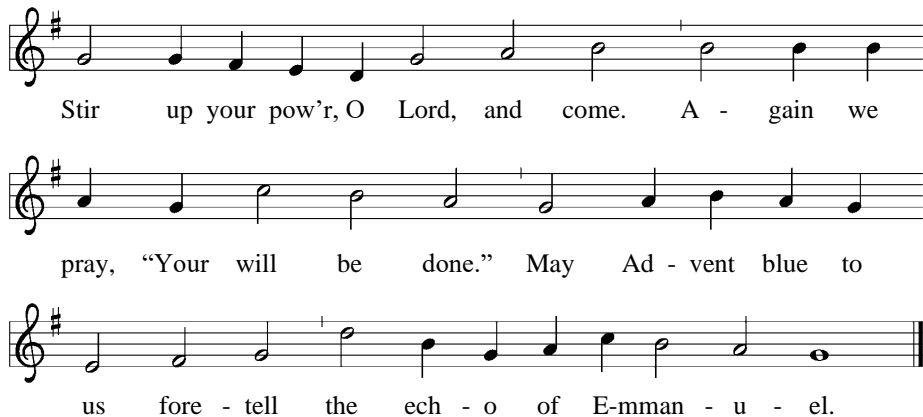
As we live in our current reality of a community in diaspora, financial offerings can still be dropped off at the church, mailed, or made electronically (tithe.ly app, etc.). As always, these avenues of offering are for the sake of serving the desire of the community to steward the gifts God has given us, not as a demand for your salvation. Please remember that although we are again physically apart for a time, St. Peter's remains a hub of ministry and service, and relies on your ongoing financial support to ensure our ministries of worship, faith formation, and care for one another and our neighbor are able to continue.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

CANTICLE OF ADVENT ANTICIPATION *(to the tune of "The Doxology")*



Stir up your pow'r, O Lord, and come. A - gain we
pray, "Your will be done." May Ad - vent blue to
us fore - tell the ech - o of E-mman - u - el.

ADVENT ANTIPHON

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give us victory over the grave.

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

*(text from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" which is based on the
"O Antiphons" of Advent from the sixth century)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:

**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

BENEDICTION

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: The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



SHARING FOR SERVING:

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Postludium In F

Chester Nordman

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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*The Eternal Candle
is presented by
the Beahm family
in celebration of the
anniversary of
Heinie & Jane Raupp*

*Today's Altar Flowers are given
by
Eilene Budisky & Family
In Loving Memory of Ron Crider*

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following

Ray Middleton	Heinie Raupp
Mary Kay Hill	Toni Ryan
Eilene Budisky	Rege & Becky Rengers
Sandy Zachrel	Marylee – Kim's sister (surgery)
Dennis Eckstein	The Family of Bill Rape

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for November

***Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Glade Run Lutheran Services.
If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your
contribution envelope Glade Run.***

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

M-F	Full Day After School Program
Mon. 11/30	7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tue. 12/1	6:30 pm Scouts
	7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting
Wed. 12/2	7:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom link e-mailed)
Sun. 12/6	9 am Sunday School through Zoom
	10:15 am Worship (live-streamed only)
	4 pm Christmas Pageant Recording

Live Stream Sunday School and Worship – During the season of Advent, November 29th – December 20th, Sunday School will be offered virtually through Zoom at 9 am and worship will return to a 10:15 am start time streamed through YouTube and Facebook only.

Glade Run - Christmas donation tags are here! Helen Barto placed a wreath with the tags on it in the entry to the church with the glass doors. Please pick up your tags ASAP and return your gifts to the box in the church lobby.

Christmas Card Box- Unfortunately we will not be hosting the annual Christmas card exchange box here at church this year. Due to services be held online we will not have the ability to ensure that cards are received in time for Christmas.

Advent Friends – Thank you to all who are participating this year, and those who will be back in again for the fun next year. Just a reminder that this is the first week to surprise your Friend(s) with a gift, but remember that since there is not much foot traffic in the church, it is not the best place to drop off a gift this year for most participants.

Christmas Trivia Night – Please join us on Saturday, December 19th at 6:30 pm for a fun night of Christmas-themed trivia. We'll gather through Zoom for the festival of friendly competition.

HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

Did you know that more than 1.6 million people in PA are classified as food insecure? An average deer will provide a highly nutritious meat for 200 meals – what better way to share our resources to help alleviate hunger in Butler County. All monetary donations are also appreciated.

Food Providers accepting venison

Katie's Kitchen - Butler
Luther's Table - Butler
Feed My Sheep – Slippery Rock
Food Fellowship for People – Portersville & Prospect
The Lighthouse Foundation - Bakerstown
Evans City Community Food Cupboard
Mt. Chestnut Presbyterian Church Food Cupboard
Moniteau Food Pantry – West Sunbury
Petroleum Valley Food Cupboard
St. Andrew's Community Dinners - Butler
St. Vincent DePaul - Butler
Family Life Ministries - Butler
First Methodist - Butler
Cabot United Methodist Food Bank
Senior Adult Ministry - Saxonburg
Summit Presbyterian Church Food Bank – Loaves & Fishes
Feed My Sheep - Zelienople
St. Joseph RC Community Meal - Cabot
St. Paul RC Community Meal - Butler
Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard - Harmony
Salvation Army - Butler
Saxonburg Presby. Helping Hands
Cabot Full Gospel Fellowship
St. Christopher RC Church - Prospect
Gleaners Food Cupboard – St. Ferdinand's – Cranberry Twp.
St. Peter's Anglican - Butler
Helping Hands – N. Main Church of God – Butler
Grapevine Center - Butler
Plus 1 Ministries – Butler
Covenant Food Cupboard - Butler

Meat Processors preparing the venison for these groups

R&B Meats & Deer Processing – Herman – 724-321-1769
Bim's Boloney – N. Washington/Petrolia – 724-894-2569
McKruit's Meat Packing – Cabot – 724-352-2988
T.A. Giger Deer Processing – Valencia – 724-898-2244
Bob's Deer Processing – Prospect – 724-865-2484

*Donations can be sent to Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH)
6780 Hickory Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Rev.10-20 Tom Rossman, Butler Co. Coordinator – 724-283-0449

Welcome to St. Peter's

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? We are glad you found us. Please check in with Pastor by calling or email to talk about what St. Peter's is like under regular conditions and so you can be connected with the ministries we are holding in old and new ways during these social distance times.

Staying in Touch:

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcecc@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

