

Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 10, 2023  
10:15 Worship Service*

*Pastor Brandon Johns*

**BELL RINGING****LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

*The first and second candles are lit as the litany begins.*

**ADVENT LITANY: A Little Child Shall Lead Them**

*(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards, we sing after a chord is played.)*

***The Lord of love is born on earth  
To rescue souls from sin.  
His Message for us to proclaim  
Is through him we will win.***

The Lord Jesus is coming with light to rid the world of the darkness of evil.

**Our lives are brightened with his kindness and compassion.**

All burdens we carry are lifted up by the One who loves us to the end.

**All glory be to Jesus Christ who stands in authority over earth and heaven in love.**

***Throughout the land, God's love is shown.  
His love dwells in our hearts.  
We nothing fear for Christ is here.  
A new life in us starts.***

In love, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

**In love, he chooses us to answer his call.**

Christ Jesus fills our hearts with his good news that he is almighty and everlasting.

**Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Carry with you the love of God's name  
And make all people know  
That from the heart of God above  
His grace shall overflow.*

In a manger bed, the love of God will rest in straw.

**In gratitude we give to God our praise for the love that crowns us all  
our days.**

*With love increase our joyful noise  
And multiply our peace.  
For Christ has come, and we will be  
Where pleasure will not cease.*

## **GREENS & WREATHS**

**The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:13**

<sup>13</sup>The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,  
to beautify the place of my sanctuary;  
and I will glorify where my feet rest.

## **The Reflection**

**The Placement of Greens & Wreaths**    *Vocal Solo*    Cora Plank

## **The Blessing**

Stir up your might and come to save us.

**Reveal your face to us, and give us life.**

Let us pray. Holy are you, God of power and glory: You promised to bless your people with life eternal. As we present these greens and wreaths in your holy house, open our eyes to see life in the world around us, that we may also know the life within us, restored through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Stay Awake, Be Ready*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem,  
herald of good tidings lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;

you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people

and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

**<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

<sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.)*



### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## **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**

**With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the  
world, and all who await God's day of restoration.**

*A brief silence.*



Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed.

***The response for each petition is:***

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

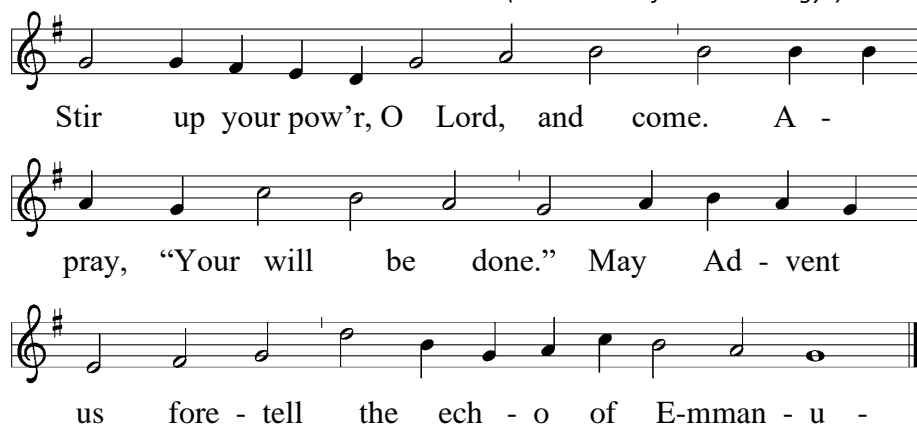
**PEACE**

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

**OFFERING**

*Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.*

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



Stir up your pow'r, O Lord, and come. A -

pray, "Your will be done." May Ad - vent

us fore - tell the ech - o of E-mman - u -

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Eternal God, **you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and care. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**



## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

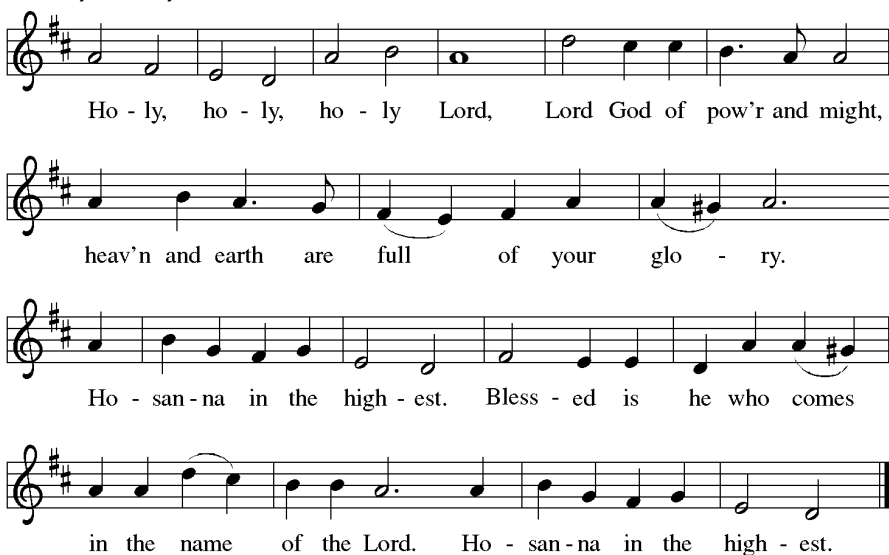
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THE PROPER PREFACE** *(It is indeed right... join their unending hymn)*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup,  
we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.  
Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God  
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **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**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, the foretaste of the heavenly feast to come.

## LAMB OF GOD *(sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Optional responses* **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

## BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, coming among us by the real presence of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, the loving reign of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **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: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;  
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
 Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

**SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays**

### DISMISSAL

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

*Today's Altar Flowers  
are given by  
Dan and Casey Guerriero  
in celebration of their  
anniversary on 12/11*

*The Eternal Candle  
is presented by  
Barb Graham in  
memory of her husband  
Harold Graham*

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support  
**Bethesda Lutheran Services**

To support this cause, please mark the *Other* line on your envelope.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following

Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Raquel Barron	Tom Smith	Phil Salm
Zachary Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Dave Martin
Marty Smith	Garrie Wearing	Mark Phillips
Karen Marburger		

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

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16*

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon – Fri	4 pm	After School
Mon. Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Anniversary Meeting
Tue. Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed. Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	12 pm	Lunch Bunch
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7 pm	Choir Practice
	8 pm	Cantata Practice
Thur. Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	9 am	Quilters Group
	7 pm	Bible Study
Sat. Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9 am	Christmas Play Practice
	6:30 pm	Game Night

**Thank you** – to everyone who helped to make the youth sponsored 2023 Advent Luncheon such a huge success! Great job to the youth who worked hard to serve others and to the adult volunteers who helped with the event. The youth raised \$300 to go toward the 2024 youth mission trip!



## **ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Sexton	Joe Ludwick
Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Acolyte	Luke Zoelle
Assisting Minister	Teresa O'Malley
Bell Ringer	Corey Walker
Greeters	Wes & Linda Schmidt
Lector	Adam Price
Nursery	Beverly Barkley
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Troy Barkley & Dan Erin

**Annual Christmas cookie sale** - will be held next Sunday following our worship service. Cookies will be provided by Lutherlyn camper families for fellowship time. If you enjoy the sweet, festive treats, then you are invited to purchase more to take home in order to help defray the cost of camp for our youth. Christmas tins will be available to fill.

**Sunday School Christmas Program** – will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served in Luther Hall after the presentation of the Nativity story. Participants in the program, please plan to arrive between 5:30-6 pm for costumes. *Dress rehearsals will be Saturday, 12/16 at 9 am and during Sunday School on the seventeenth.*

**Christmas Dinner and Caroling** – All are invited to eat together and then sing carols throughout Evans City on December 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 5:30 pm.

**Christmas Luminaries at St. Peter's** - Once again St. Peter's will light your way on Christmas Eve. If you would like to sponsor a luminary, please fill out a form or you can email or call the church with your request. Donations of \$5 will be accepted and will benefit Batten disease research and support.

**Christmas Eve** - We offer two candlelight communion services at St. Peter's on Christmas Eve. One will be held at 7 pm, which we call our family service because it has our Christmas Eve Children's Message and is slightly briefer for younger attention spans. At 10 pm is our traditional, full liturgy service. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

## **Welcome to St. Peter's**

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. 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? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

**Nursery** - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

## **Staying in Touch:**

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment. Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: [stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net](mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net)

Pastor Email: [rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org](http://www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org)

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

## **RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

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