

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 22, 2024
10:15 Worship Service*

Pastor Brandon Johns

PRELUDE

Star Of the East

Amanda Kennedy

BELL RINGING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**

Four candles are lit as the litany begins.

ADVENT LITANY: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

Emmanuel came to the little town of Bethlehem on a seemingly silent night.

But the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds when the angels arrived.

With many voices, the angels say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

With our voices this Christmas we say and we sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel**

Though an infant small, Jesus is mighty to save all people on earth.

He is wrapped in glory for our deliverance.

There is glory in his life and in his death.

And we have seen his glory.

There is glory in his rising.

**We will glory in his resurrection from the dead when we enter
paradise with him.**

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are invited at this time for the Children's Message and to remain up front during this Hanging of the Greens portion to set up the nativity.)

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

NATIVITY

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:20b-24

An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

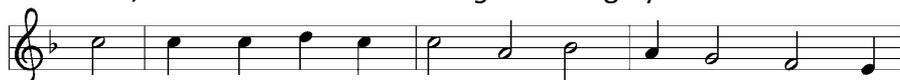
²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

The Reflection

The Placement of the Nativity

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming sung by all



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

The Blessing

Stir up your might and come to save us.

Reveal your face to us, and give us life.

The Prayer

Let us pray. Holy are you, O God of glory: With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals of the stable we await the birth of your Son, given for us. As we present this nativity scene into your holy house, we pray that you would open our hearts and eyes to repent and prepare to receive the gift of salvation, our Savior and Lord, the promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

CANDLES AND LIGHTS

The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

The Reflection

The Placement of Candles and Lights *flute solo* *Lily Johns*

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 alone can bring light and hope to a desperate planet. As we present these candles and lights into your holy house, open our eyes to see your eternal gift of hope that helps each of us see that all our tomorrows are held in your arms through the power of our Lord and Savior 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Mary's Holy Child

Charlotte Algozin

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace

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

PSALM 80:1-7

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

- ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
- ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings”
(these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See,
I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to
establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once
for all. *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

(based on Luke 1:46b-55)



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.



Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

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

**As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people
and places that long for God's presence.**

A brief silence.

God our uniter, raise up your people everywhere to be your Church for the whole world. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world.

The response for each petition is:

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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 - gain we
pray, "Your will be done." May Ad - vent blue to
us fore - tell the ech - o of E-mman - u - el.

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 God, 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.

Amen. 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.

Amen. 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,

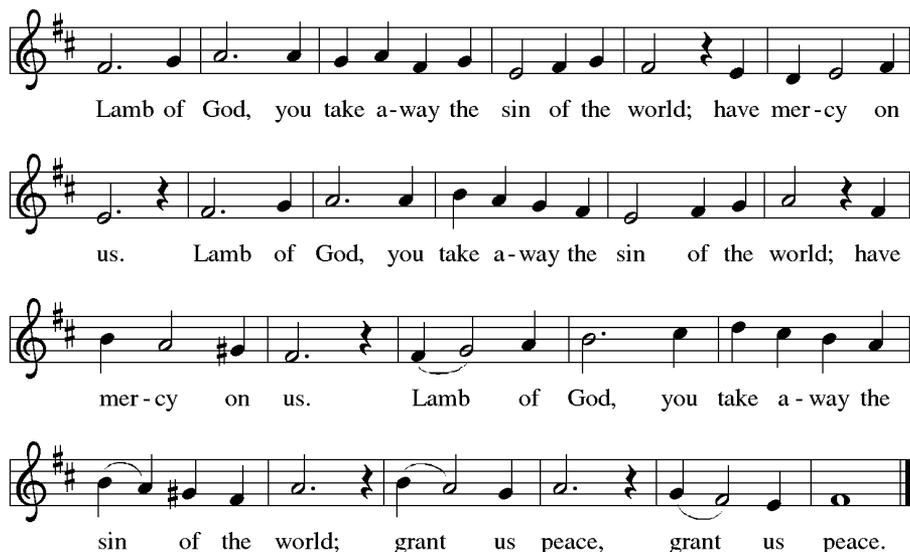
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

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. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG: People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rejoice And Sing

Elizabeth T. VanWoert

*Today's Altar Flowers
are in memory of
Lydia Grace given by
Neal & Beverly Critchlow*

*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	Troy Barkley	Luke Clawson
Lucille Wingard	Roberta Domhoff	Lisa Burr
Kay Burr	Tony Platek	Roy Marburger
Mary Marburger Long	Berty McMillen	Tim Crutchfield
Gary Checkan	David & Betty Wobb	Albert Dornain
Pastor Tony Schneck	Ailisha Raquel Barron	Susan Lohr

The families of Thomas Geiger, Kathy Pfeifer and Ruth Blank
Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. Dec. 23 rd	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tues. Dec. 24 th	7:00 pm	Worship Service
	10:00 pm	Worship Service
Wed. Dec. 25 th	Office Closed	Joyous Christmas
Thurs. Dec. 26 th	10:00 am	Quilters Group

Thank You! – to everyone who shared God's love by providing gifts to people through Glade Run and our Angel Tree this year!

The 2025 offering envelopes - Are in your mailboxes. The envelopes are numbered and dated for 2025 so please wait to use them until then!

Sunday School Christmas Program – TONIGHT at 6:30 pm! Refreshments will be served in Luther Hall after the presentation of the Nativity story. Participants, please plan to arrive between 5:30-6 pm for costumes.

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.

Pot Luck Epiphany Luncheon - Our annual Advent Friend reveal and Epiphany luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 5th immediately following worship. EVERYONE is invited to bring a dish to share and listen to stories of those who participated in Advent Friends 2024.

Nursery – With the nursery being back to regular use, we could use some older children and teens as assistants. Please let Adam Price or Beverly Barkley know if you're interested. Thank you!

Sign Ups – The flower chart, eternal candle, and newsletter sponsorship sheet as well as a sign up for After Worship Fellowship are available on the bulletin board in Luther Hall. Please consider serving in one or more of these ways. Thank you!



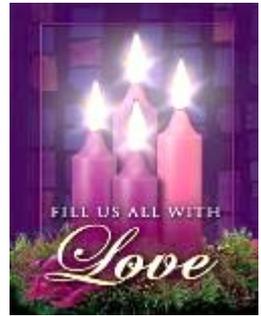
ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Penelope Erin
Assisting Minister	Anna Plank
Bell Ringer	Davin Beahm
Greeters	Vic & Brenda Peffer
Lector	Becky Rengers
Nursery	Marge Lindgren
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Dan Erin & Rob Burr

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

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: 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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