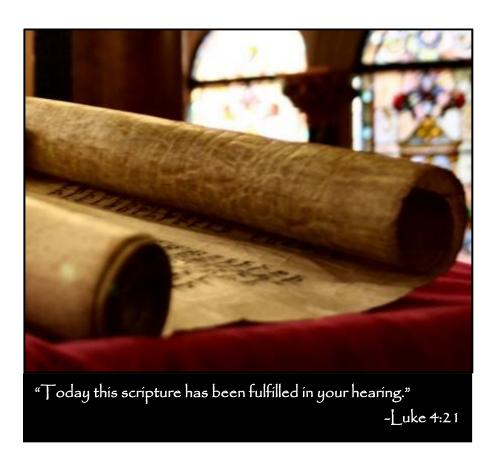
Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025 10:15 am Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ⊕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

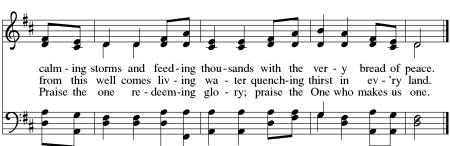
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light; Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word; 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place; praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace. Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis-ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand; and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done. sing for joy



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. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR *Come, Christians Sing!* C. Bateman & B. Huguley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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

PSALM 19 (Read Responsively)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- ³ Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
- Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
 - O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

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





GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

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

SERMON

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

HYMN OF THE DAY: Hail to the Lord's Anointed



- 1 Hail to the Lord's a noint ed, great Da vid's great er Son!
- 2 You come with res cue speed y to those who suf fer wrong, 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
- 3 You shall come down like show ers up on the fruit ful earth; 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun! in the to help the poor and need y, and bid the weak be strong; in your path to love. joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring birth. all na-tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



give them songs for sigh ing, their dark - ness turn to to Be fore the shall peace, the her - ald, you on moun - tains To you shall and dai - lv praver un - ceas ing vows as





Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540-1602

APOSTLES' CREED

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, receive our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

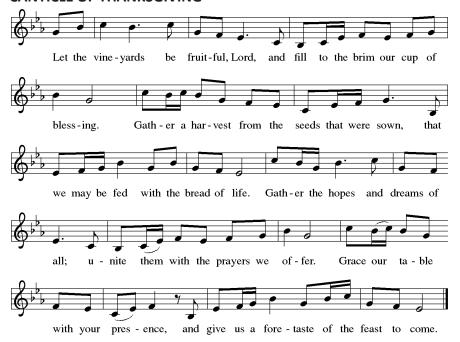
PEACE

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

OFFERING

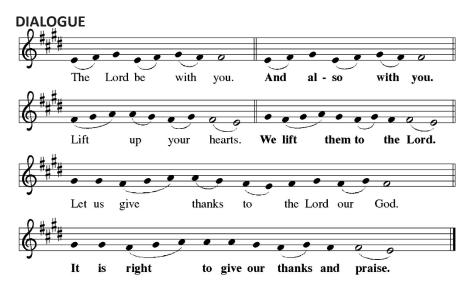
Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



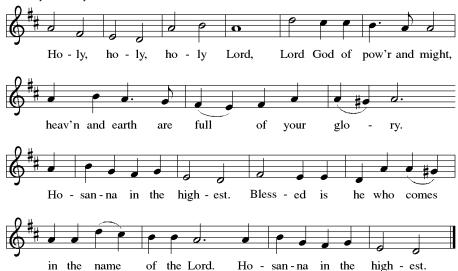
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.



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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages

to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,

through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

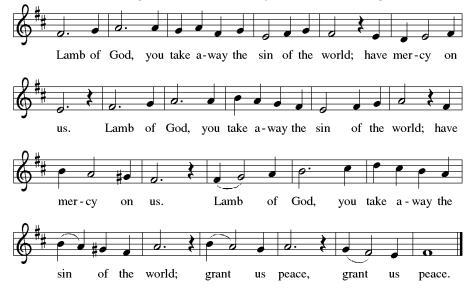
Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and peace.



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



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. Radiant God with our eyes we have seen your salvation and, in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in 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 \pm give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Arise, Your Light Has Come



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* Roger C. Wilson

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley Troy Barkley Luke Clawson Roberta Domhoff Lisa Burr Gary Checkan Kay Burr Glen Walker Tim Crutchfield Mary Marburger Long Berty McMillen Albert Dorlain John Kriebel David & Betty Wobb Susan Lohr Sheila Hernandez Carmen Morra Reed Soergel Jaxton H. Fred Sharrar Pastor Tony Schneck Eddie Schoeffel

The families of Roy Marburger, Charleen Lippencott, Joe Maddalon, and Joan Hespenheide

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for January

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Meals on Wheels. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the Other line on your contribution envelope Meals on Wheels.

Today's altar flowers are presented by Troy & Beverly Barkley in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary

The eternal candle is presented by Teresa O'Malley: Happy New Year and may the Lord bless us all!

Today's bulletin is sponsored in loving memory of Sue Ludwik in honor of her 80th birthday by her family.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

MonFri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. Jan 27 th	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tues. Jan 28 th	7:00 pm	Dorcas Circle
Wed. Jan 29 th	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Jan 30 th	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Presiding Bishop (ELCA) Synodical Bishop (SWPA Synod)				
Pastor				
Music Director and Organist				
Office Secretary				
Sexton				
Acolyte				
Assisting Minister				
Bell Ringer				
Greeters				
Lector				
Nursery				
Tech Support				
Ushers				

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
The Rev. Brandon Johns
Marlene Domhoff
Kimberly Peaco
Joe Ludwik
Logan Thomas
Glenn Fulghum
Corey Walker
Wes & Linda Schmidt
Ted Lindgren III
Colleen Prenovitz
Heidi Beahm
Cindy & Tom Ayers

<u>Thank You</u> – Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Soup Sale. Many hands make light work and so do joyful spirits, and we are blessed to have an abundance of both at St. Peter's!

Hoagie Sale – Please consider purchasing hoagies to support our After School Program. Orders need to be returned today. Checks can be made payable to the church with Hoagies in the Memo line. We know it's a fast turnaround between soup and sandwich orders, but hoagie orders are timed to be available for the Super Bowl. Fairground Market has asked for our orders to be back to them earlier this year, which is why the two feel that much closer together this year. Thank you for your patience and support.

<u>Congregational Meeting</u> – Please plan to stay after worship on February 2nd, for lunch and our annual Bulletin of Reports meeting.

Notes About Next Sunday - February 2 is known in our area for being Groundhog Day. However, it's also an ancient Christian Festival, the Presentation of Jesus, because forty days after Jesus was born (celebrated on 12/25), Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated. This festival marks the end of the "Season of Light," Christmas and Epiphany, and so the tradition of bringing candles to bless for the year attached itself to this festival. It became known as the Mass of the Candles, or Candlemas. Since it marks the end of the Christmas and Epiphany season, Candlemas is the time to take down nativity scenes and other decorations or they should be left up all year, according to tradition. Since February 2 falls on a Sunday this year, we will celebrate Candlemas. You are welcome to bring candles to bless. Also, there is a tradition from France of having crepes on Candlemas, so we will have a potluck "breakfast for lunch" after worship. Everyone is invited to share their favorite breakfast casserole or other dish, and that will be the meal for our annual congregational meeting.

2024 Giving Statements - May be found in your church mailboxes. Thank you for all of the ways you contribute to the mission and ministry of our church family all year long!

<u>Nursery</u> – With the nursery being back to regular use, we could use some older children and teens as assistants. We would like to have enough names and commitment to develop a schedule of volunteer assistants. Please let Adam Price or Beverly Barkley know if you're interested. Thank you!

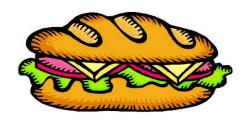
<u>Food Drive</u> – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting boxes of cereal in February for the food cupboard. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need. Our next pack up day downstairs is Sunday, February 9.

<u>Bell Choir</u> – This lovely ministry of music and fellowship will return to rehearsals on February 16 after worship. You don't need to have been a member of the Bell Choir previously to join in the fun at that time. All are welcome! We'll be preparing our Easter selections.

Electronic Giving – Would you like to make online contributions to St. Peter's? You can! Electronic Giving is an alternative way of giving to St. Peter's. If you are interested in giving in this way you will need to download the TITHE.LY app. or long into TITHE.LY using the link provided on our website. After you download the app or log into the web page you will need to set up an account and select St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the "Give Now" option or set up the autopay offering option. We are also in the process of investigating the pros and cons and logistics of having a St. Peter's Venmo account. If you have any input or questions please see Heidi Beahm or Pastor.

<u>Prayer Requests</u> – Just a quick reminder about how our prayer lists work. When the office receives a request that someone be included in the bulletin for prayer or when a request is made on a prayer card, then that person is put into the bulletin as requested. After 2-3 weeks in the bulletin, then the name is rotated off of the list in the bulletin, unless it is requested that the person remain longer. If it is known by Pastor that the person's need is still critical, then they might stay longer, or if Pastor knows it is an ongoing need, then they are moved to our longer printed prayer list. If you requested the prayer, please keep communicating to the office or Pastor so we know best how to support the person through our prayers.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program Super Bowl Hoagie Fundraiser



Orders Due: Sun. Jan. 26th Pick Up: Sat. Feb. 8th 10-11 am

Name:		
Phone Number		

8" Hoagies packaged in individual containers (lettuce, tomato & dressing are bagged separately)

Regular	Italian	Turkey &	Total #
Hoagie:	Hoagie:	Provolone	of
Bologna,	Capicola,	Cheese	Hoagies
Ham, Hard	Pepperoni,		Ordered
Salami,	Salami		
American			
Cheese			

Total Due (\$7 each)

Checks can be made out to St. Peter's with "Hoagie" in the Memo line

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: style="color: blue;">

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:

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24133.New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.