

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founded 1856

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, ME 48170

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Sunday, December 10, 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

Service Notes:

- The following psalms in the front of the hymnal (page 64f) will aid you in your meditation before receiving the Lord's Supper: Psalms 34, 42-43, 51, 84, 116, 150. Prayers for preparation for worship are on pages 10 and 11 in the hymnal. A form for preparation for Communion is on page 156.
- Guests, please sign at the guest registry in the narthex.
- If you have a prayer request or would like Pastor Schaefer to visit or call you, please talk to him (734-658-5735).

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. Our guests are kindly asked to note that it is our practice to first become a member of our communion fellowship before communing with us. Please speak to our pastor about becoming a member of our communion fellowship.

THE COMMON SERVICE (page 15)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

The soloist will sing as the candle is lit:

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For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in you.
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in you.

OPENING HYMN: #702 "Prepare the Royal Highway" (Next page.) Text: ©1978 Concordia Publishing House and Augsburg Fortress. Alternate setting: ©2006 Kermit Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSIOIN OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his

authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

HYMN 263 "All Glory Be to God on High"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation. **Refrain**

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain

SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

VERSE OF THE DAY (sung by the choir)

Alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia! (Luke 3:4, 6 cf.)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

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

4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: #16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cry”

SERMON

STAND

PSALM 51 RESPONSE (page 20)



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT (Page 123)**

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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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.

BE SEATED

Please use this time for personal preparation or meditation before the Lord's Supper. A form to assist you can be found on page 156 in the front part of the hymnal.

STAND



THE SACRAMENT (Page 21)

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:




C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is the new testament in my (+) blood, which is poured out for you for the

forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace (+) of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM: “Prepare the Way Before Him”

(Public Domain: Joachim von Burck [1541 – 1610])

Prepare the way before Him; prepare for Him the best.
Cast out whatever offendeth this great, this heavenly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising, the heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

Ye sons of men, oh, hearken: your heart and mind prepare
To hail the almighty Savior, O sinners, be your care.
He who of grace alone our Life and Light was given,
The promised Lord from heaven, unto our world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
And grant that I receive Thee this blessed Advent tide.
From stall and manger low come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee and forth Thy glory show.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#11 “Comfort, Comfort, All My People”

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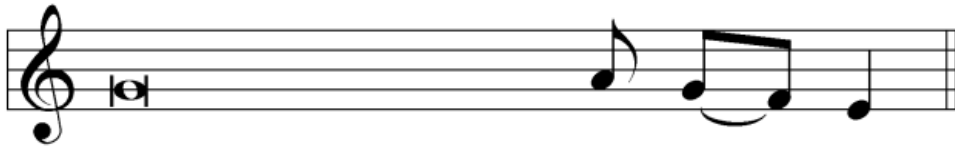
THANKSGIVING (page 24)

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc dimittis*)

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

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OFFICIANTS:

Preacher and Celebrant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Communion Assistant: Ron Bude

Organist: Julie Webber; Choir: Senior

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 11:00 AM Preschool Advent Service
- Tuesday - 7:00 PM Voters Meeting
- Wednesday - 9:30 AM Online Bible Class
- Thursday - 9:00 AM Christmas Basket assembly for shut-ins
- 7:00 PM Senior Choir
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Altar Flowers are donated to the glory of God.

Serving next week Dec 17, Altar Guild: Gretchen Castellese;
Ushering: Team 3

The **Voters' Assembly** will meet Tues, Dec 12 at 7:00 PM to elect church officers and board members, as well as approve the Church Budget for calendar year 2024. All voters are asked to attend.

The Pregnancy Care Center needs used **Children's winter coats sizes: 2T, 3T, and 4T for both boys and girls.** Please place your donations on the basement stage through December. Thank you!

Christmas Basket Assembly for shut-ins needs cookies. Please set them on church kitchen countertop by December 14, 9 AM.

PASTORAL CARE & MERCY – Please remember with prayers, cards and visits those whose needs have been reported.

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| <p>The Pastoral Staff Church Office: 734-453-3393 www.splp.org stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com Pastor: Rev. Paul Schaefer Cell: 734-658-5735 Email: Peschaef5@gmail.com</p> | <p>St. Peter's Preschool Rebecca Lohrmann, Director</p> <p>Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) (Saginaw) 989-793-1041</p> | <p>President: Bruce Winkler Vice President: Richard Cording Council Secretary: Jim Cutler Treasurer: Seth Anderson Financial Secretaries: Steve Jacobi, Van Varner Board Chairmen:</p> |
|---|--|--|

Music Directors: Jan Jacobi and
Julie Webber
Church Secretary: Tracy Pitt

Hope Christian Academy
(was Huron Valley Lutheran)
(Westland) 734-525-0160

Elders – Ron Bude
Stewardship/Education -
Ernie Honke
Trustees – Nils Peterson



³ *A voice cries:*

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.*

⁴ *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.*

⁵ *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*