

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Founded 1856
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, ME 48170
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

He came as a witness,
to bear witness
about the light,
that all might believe through him.

JOHN 1:7



Sunday, December 17, 2023
The Third 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.

- Please sign the friendship registry in the pews before the service or during the offering. If you have a prayer request or would like Pastor Schaefer to visit or call you, please note your request.

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 Root of Life, implant your seed within us,

And in your advent draw us all to you,

Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

OPENING HYMN: #13 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt. ©1938 Text and Setting Church Publishing Inc. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

13 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A
 2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty
 flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed
 works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of
 gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Tune: ASCENSION (Irregular) Henry H. Bancroft, b. 1904-1988.

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



CONFESSION 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.



C: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

263

All Glory Be to God on High

Gloria in Excelsis



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, Who has our
 2 We praise, we wor - ship you, we trust; We give you
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Of God, your
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, pre - cious Gift, Our Com - fort -



race be - friend - ed! To us no harm shall
 thanks for - ev - er, O Fa - ther, that your
 heav'n - ly Fa - ther, You did for all our
 er from heav - en, Our wea - ry hearts and



now come nigh; The strife at last is end - ed. The
 rule is just And wise and chang - es nev - er. In
 sins a - tone, And your lost sheep you gath - er. O
 souls up - lift; For this our praise is giv - en. De -



Fa - ther's love, the Sav - ior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to
 bound - less pow'r, with might - y reign, Done is what - ev - er
 Lamb of God, to you on high From depths of woe we
 liv - er us from doubt and fear; When Sa - tan trou - bles



all the earth; Oh, thank him for his good - ness!
 you or - dain; Your rule brings count - less bless - ings!
 sin - ners cry, Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!
 us, be near; We trust your love and pow - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3,10,11

61 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 71

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Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;^{*}
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;^{*}
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;^{*}
For you are my rock and my fortress. **Refrain**

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,^{*}
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,^{*}
do not forsake me, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,^{*}
your might to all who are to come.

**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: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY (sung by the soloist)

Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia! (Matthew 11:10 cf.)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8; 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



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

GOSPEL RESPONSE: “The Moon with Borrowed Light”

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The moon with borrowed light gives witness to the sun,
Discreetly fading with the night when morning has begun.
John’s borrowed light was drawn from heaven’s vibrant rays,
His life a witness to the dawn of Christ’s approaching blaze.

The temple Levites asked what title did John claim.
He said he had a single task, a single goal and aim:
To redirect their sight beyond what he had done—
To Christ the pure and primal light that lightens everyone.

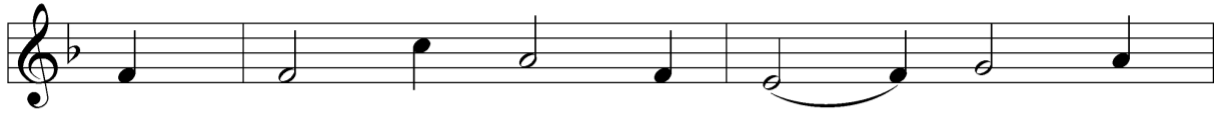
The clouds of sin yet mask earth’s tangled, stubbly ground,
And, oh, how many hearts still ask where God’s clear path is found.
For borrowed light we pray, so we may be a sign
That points to Christ, the truth, the way, the life, the light divine.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #14 “Arise, O Christian People”

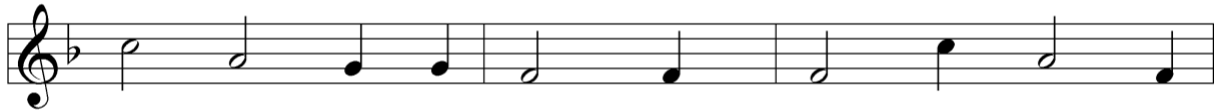
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14

Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



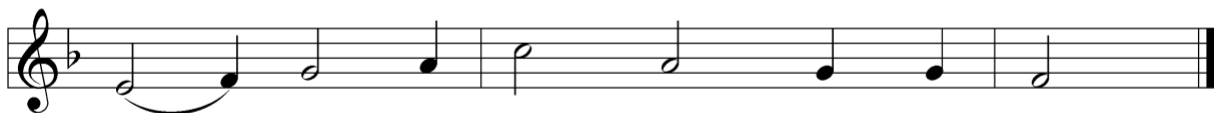
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

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.



THE SACRAMENT (Page 21)

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.

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:



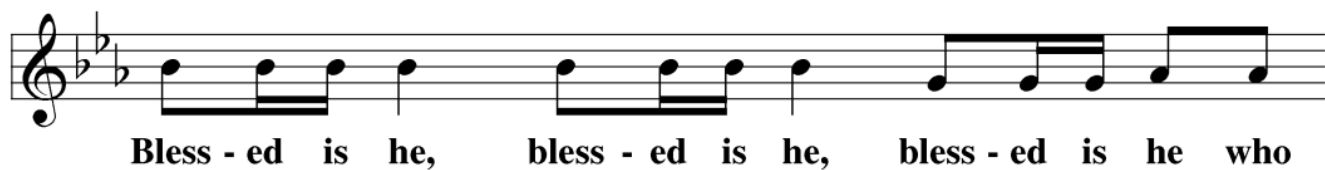
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



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 HYMNS:

#20 “When All the World Was Cursed”

#27 “O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are”

20

When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem -
 2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans -
 4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re -



na - tion, Saint John the Bap - tist came With
 meet - ing, Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose
 gres - sion, Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The
 joic - ing, The word pro - claimed by John, Our



words of con - so - la - tion. With true fore - run - ner's
 moth - er he was greet - ing. By Jor - dan's roll - ing
 dev - il's dread op - pres - sion. Be - hold the Lamb of
 true re - pent - ance voic - ing, That glad - ly we may



zeal The great - er one he named, And him, as
 stream, A new E - li - jah bold, He tes - ti -
 God, Who takes a - way our sin, Who for our
 walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way Un - til we



yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.
 peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are



1 O Je - sus, Lamb of God, you are My com - fort
 2 O Lord, my sin in - deed is great; I groan be -
 3 Saint John the Bap - tist points to you And bids me
 4 Help me to change my ways, O Lord, And glad - ly



and my guid - ing star; I come, a sin - ner,
 neath the dread - ful weight. Be mer - ci - ful to
 cast my sin on you, For you have left your
 to o - bey your Word. While here I live, a -



trust - ing - ly And bring my man - y sins with me.
 me, I pray; Take guilt and pun - ish - ment a - way.
 throne on high To suf - fer for the world and die.
 bide with me, Then take me home e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: WEIMAR (LM) C. P. E. Bach, 1714–88.

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: Mark Castellese

Organist and Soloist: Julie Webber

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S


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| Today | - 9:30 AM Divine Service |
| Wednesday | - 9:30 AM NO Online Bible Class |
| Thursday | - 7:00 PM Senior Choir |
| Sunday | - 9:30 AM Divine Service |
| | - 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Festival Service |
| | - 11:00 PM Christmas Divine Service |

Serving next week Dec 24 9:30AM: Altar: Arlette Stobbe **Ushers:** Team 4
7PM: Altar: Jan Jacobi; **Ushers:** Team 1; **11PM Ushers:** Team 2

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!

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

<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 Music Director: Jan Jacobi and Julie Webber Church Secretary: Tracy Pitt</p>	<p>St. Peter's Preschool Rebecca Lohrmann, Director Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) (Saginaw) 989-793-1041 Hope Christian Academy (Westland) 734-525-0160</p>	<p>President: Bruce Winkler Vice President: Richard Cording Council Secretary: Jim Cutler Treasurer: Seth Anderson Financial Secretaries: Steve Jacobi, Van Varner Board Chairmen: Elders – Mark Castellese Stewardship/Education - Rick Carr Trustees – Nils Peterson</p>
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	<p><i>Join us for a Christmas Eve Carol Festival Service December 24 7:00 p.m. ****Also**** December 24 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Divine Service December 25 9:30 AM Christmas Day Divine Service</i></p>
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