

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



Sunday, December 24, 2023
The Fourth 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 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 candles are lit: Contributor: Marty Haugen

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

Truly my hope is in you.

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage.

We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.

Open to us the pathway of your peace.

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

Truly my hope is in you.

OPENING HYMN: #24 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Text ©The Church Pension Fund and ©1961 H. Freeman and Co. All rights reserved.

24 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree: A
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, "Most
 Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
 soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." Most
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, "Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol, paraphrase Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
 Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE (10 10 12 10) Basque carol.

STAND

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



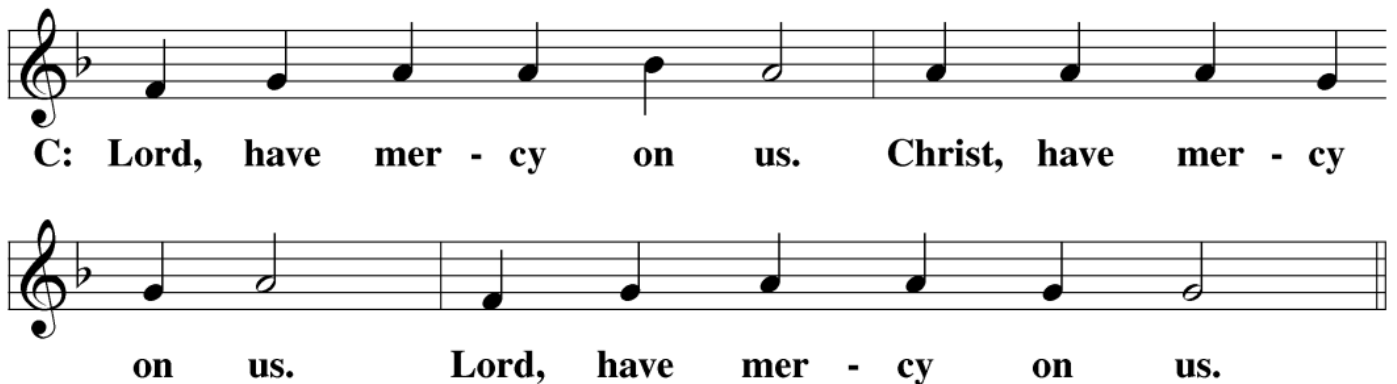
C: A - men.

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*)



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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.
We sing **Hymn 263**, “All Glory Be to God on High.” (See the next page.)

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

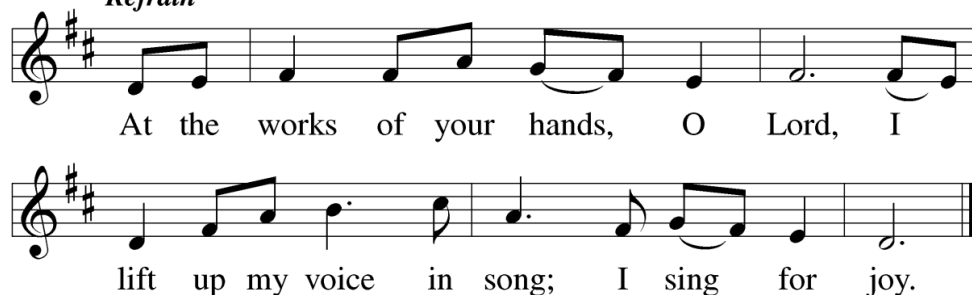
⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will

discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 89

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Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



*
|

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;^{*}

I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,^{*}

that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,^{*}

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?^{*}

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

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 At the works of your hand, O Lord, I lift up my voice
in song; I sing for joy

SECOND LESSON: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my
gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the
revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic
writings has been made known to all nations, according to the
command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of
faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through
Jesus Christ! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY (sung by the soloist)

Alleluia! The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia! (Matthew 1:23)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



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

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come,
Emmanuel” will be sung during the PRAYER OF THE
CHURCH, after the sermon.**

SERMON

STAND

PSALM 51 RESPONSE



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

M: *The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshipers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the scriptural promise or prophecy.*

The minister shall pray at the altar, and the congregation shall respond by singing the accompanying stanza of "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel."

M: Let us pray.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

**C: Oh, come, oh, 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!**

**M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most
High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily
order all things; come and teach us the way
of prudence.**

**C: Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice ! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!**

**M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who
appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him
the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and
redeem us.**

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!**

M: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

C: Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem.
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
Bring them in vic'try through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!

M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

C: Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

C: Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

C: Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O
Israel!

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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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.**

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.

NOTE: *Please be prepared to receive the host in your outstretched hand, rather than in your mouth.*



THE SACRAMENT

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)



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.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



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: “To a Virgin Meek and Mild

Text: © 1978, Augsburg Fortress; Contributors: David Johnson, V.E.Boe and Oscar R. Overby, Reprinted, recorded, and podcast with permission under One Licenses #A-722670 and R-101103. All rights reserved.

To a virgin meek and mild came an angel holy,
Greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly:
Hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God’s Son.
Through a wondrous birth he shall come to earth,
And shall reign as a King forever: Jesus, blessed Savior.

By the sages long foretold, now the day is nearing,
Promises of God unfold in the Son appearing.
He, the child of Bethlehem, Branch divine of Jesse’s stem,
Shall have great increase as the Prince of Peace,
And the earth shall be filled with the Lord’s salvation, Hope of every nation.

Come into this heart of mine, Jesus, Guest from heaven.
Cradled there, O Babe divine, earth shall be a heaven.
Angels, sing your lullaby; keep your vigil in the sky
Till the dawn shall break, and all earth awake
To proclaim him the King who shall reign forever: Jesus,
blessed Savior.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#76 “Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love” Contributors: William W How.

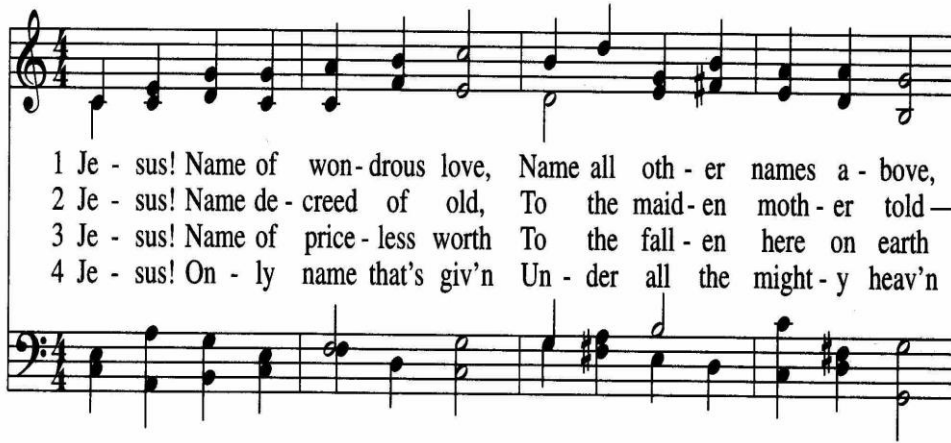
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#31 “O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars” Text: Latin hymn, c. 9th

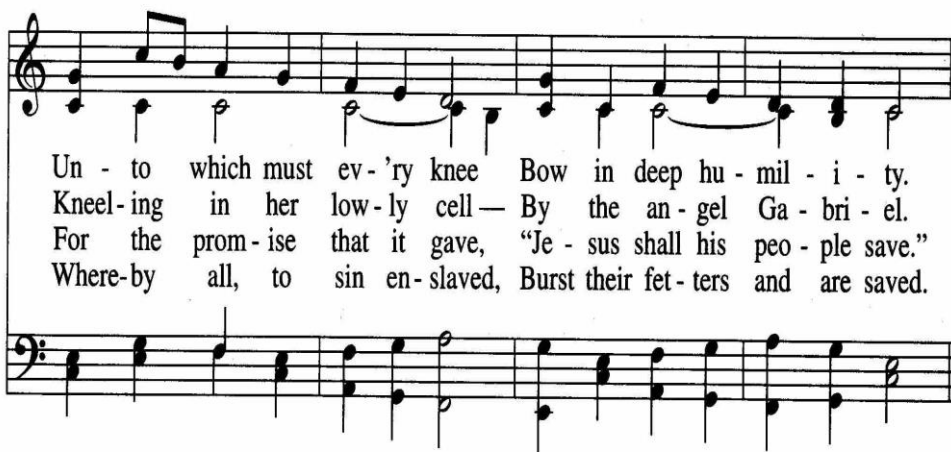
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Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

76



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told—
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en here on earth
 4 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n Un - der all the might - y heav'n



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell— By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."
 Where-by all, to sin en - slaved, Burst their fet - ters and are saved.

- 5 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we, too,
 Flee, O God, in faith to you.

31 O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars



1 O Lord of light, who made the stars,
 2 In low - li - ness you came to earth
 3 To pay the debt we owed for sin,
 4 But now you reign, the King of kings,
 5 Great Judge of all, on earth's last day



O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
 To res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares,
 Your pain - ful cross was made the price;
 A - dored in high - est maj - es - ty;
 Have pit - y on your chil - dren's plight.



O Christ, Re - deem - er of the world:
 O won - drous Love that healed our wounds
 From bless - ed Mar - y's womb you came,
 Your ver - y name is held in awe
 Rise up to shield us with your grace;



Come now and lis - ten as we pray.
 By tak - ing on our mor - tal cares.
 A vic - tim pure for sac - ri - fice.
 From pole to pole and sea to sea.
 De - liv - er us from Sa - tan's might. A - men.

6 To God the Father and the Son
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
 Praise, honor, might, and glory be
 From age to age eternally. Amen

Text: Latin hymn, c. 9th century; tr. Melvin Farrell, b. 1930, alt. © 1993 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL, www.wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM (LM) Sarum plainsong, c. 9th century.

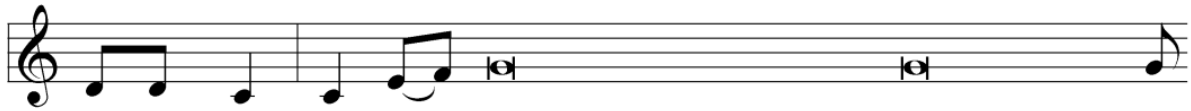
THANKSGIVING

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-

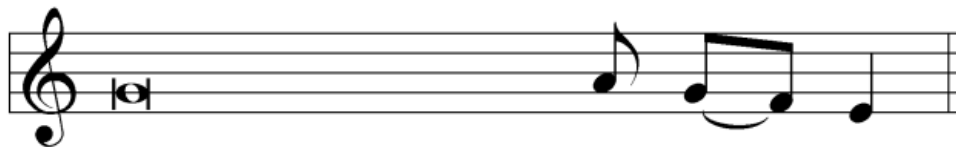


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



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: Steve Wendland

Organist: Jan Jacobi; Soloist: Lois Bude

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Today | - 9:30 AM Divine Service
NO Sunday School and Adult Bible Class |
| | - 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Hymn Festival Service |
| | - 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Divine Service |
| Monday | - 9:30 AM Christmas Day Divine Service |
| Wednesday | - NO Online Bible Class |
| Thursday | - NO Senior Choir Practice |
| Sunday | - 9:30 AM Divine Service
-10:45 AM Removal of Church Decorations |

A Special Vase of flowers was donated by Leola Douglas in memory of her husband, Raymond.

Serving next week (Sunday, December 31):
Altar Guild – Nancy Winkler; **Ushering**: Team 4

The **church decorations** will be removed from the sanctuary next Sunday, December 31, after the Divine Service. Please join us for a time of fellowship and service.

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 Pastor's Cell: 734-658-5735 Email: Peschaef5@gmail.com Music Directors: Jan Jacobi and Julie Webber (734-904-8765) Church Secretary: Tracy Pitt</p>	<p>St. Peter's Preschool Rebecca Lohrmann, Director</p> <p>Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) (Saginaw) 989-793-1041</p> <p>Hope Christian Academy (Was Huron Valley Lutheran) (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 – Ron Bude Stewardship/Education - Ernie Honke Trustees – Nils Peterson</p>
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*Join us for a Christmas Eve
Carol Festival Service*

Tonight, December 24 7:00 p.m.

*****Also*****

*December 24 11:00 PM
Christmas Eve Divine Service*

*Monday, December 25 9:30 AM
Christmas Day Divine Service*