

*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Founded 1856*  
*1343 Penniman Avenue*  
*Plymouth, MA 01969*  
*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

*And when they had performed everything according  
To the Law of the lord, they returned to .... Nazareth.  
And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.  
And the favor of God was upon him.*

*Luke 2:39-40*

*Sunday, December 31, 2023*  
*First Sunday after Christmas*

**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)

### OPENING HYMN: #77 “Saints, In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Text: Henry J. Pye 1825-1903. Setting: ©1981 Richard W. Gieseke. Used by permission.

#### PRESENTATION

77

### In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him; See the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore him, Vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by your pres - en - ta - tion, You who did for



pect - ed Lord. An - cient proph - ets had fore - told him;  
hold him lie, While his a - ged saints a - dore him  
us en - dure, Let us see your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled his Word. Now to praise him,  
Ere in faith and hope they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Seal us with your prom - ise sure, And pre - sent us



his re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! See th' in - car - nate God most high!  
in your glo - ry To your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY (87 87 87) Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt.

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




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:



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of  
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;  
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; 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 45:20-25

<sup>20</sup> Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. <sup>21</sup> Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. <sup>22</sup> Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' <sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. <sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory."

### **PSALM OF THE DAY:** Psalm 111

*Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Psalm tone*



Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate. **Refrain**

The works of his hands are faithful and just,\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;  
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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***

Refrain Tune: J.Robert Carroll. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

**SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** (sung by the soloist)

Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia!  
(Colossians 3:15)

**STAND**



*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



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

## **GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 2:25-40

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty four. She did not

depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.



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: #41 “Let All Together Praise the Lord”**

Text, Tune: Nikolaus Herman (1480-1561)

## 41

## Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
 Of paradise today.  
 The angel guards the gate no more;  
 To God our thanks we pay,  
 To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

## 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 CLOSE OF YEAR

**M:** I will call you, my God the King; I will praise you for ever and ever.

**C:** Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

**M:** It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express your gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C:** You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

**M:** You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**C:** **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

**M:** Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C:** **We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

**M:** We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Spirit, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**C:** **Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love, as you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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 (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, who preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. 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:** “Lord, Bid your Servant Go In Peace” Text: ©1969, 1989 OCP, Contributor James Quinn. Setting: ©Concordia Publishing House, Contributor Henry V. Gerike. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670.

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, Your word is now fulfilled.  
 These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn. This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world. The Gentiles’ promised light,  
 God’s glory dwelling in our midst, The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come, To Your we lift our voice,  
 To Father, Son, and Spirit blest, Be honor, love, and praise.

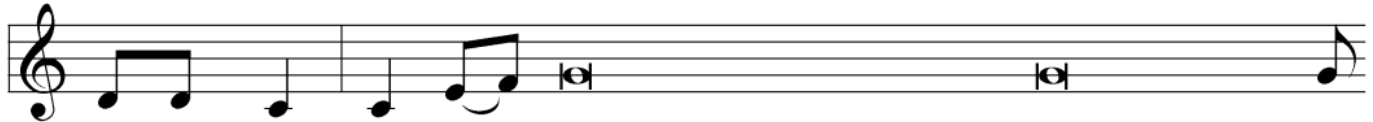
# THANKSGIVING (page 24)

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-

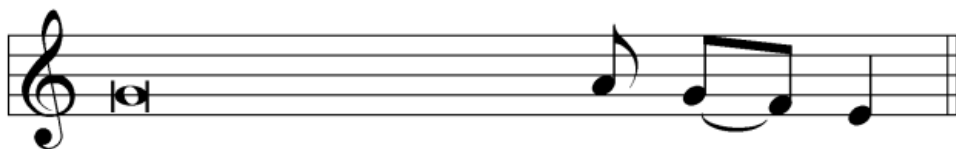


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



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: Steve Wendland

Musician: Julie Webber

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S**

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service  
-10:45 AM Take down sanctuary Christmas decorations
- Tuesday - 7:00 PM Board of Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday - 9:30 AM Online Bible Class
- Thursday - 7:00 PM Senior Choir
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service  
-10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Serving January 7: Altar Guild – Jan Jacobi; Ushers: Team 1

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

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| <p><b>The Pastoral Staff</b><br/><b>Church Office:</b> 734-453-3393<br/><a href="http://www.splp.org">www.splp.org</a><br/><a href="mailto:stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com">stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com</a><br/><b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Paul Schaefer<br/><b>Pastor's Cell:</b> 734-658-5735<br/><b>Email:</b> Peschaef5@gmail.com<br/><b>Music Directors:</b> Jan Jacobi and Julie Webber<br/><b>Church Secretary:</b> Tracy Pitt</p> | <p><b>St. Peter's Preschool</b><br/>Rebecca Lohrmann, Director</p> <p><b>Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS)</b><br/>(Saginaw) 989-793-1041</p> <p><b>Hope Christian Academy</b><br/>(Westland) 734-525-0160</p> | <p><b>President:</b> Bruce Winkler<br/><b>Vice President:</b> Richard Cording<br/><b>Council Secretary:</b> Jim Cutler<br/><b>Treasurer:</b> Seth Anderson<br/><b>Financial Secretaries:</b><br/>Steve Jacobi, Van Varner<br/><b>Board Chairmen:</b><br/><b>Elders</b> – Ron Bude<br/><b>Stewardship/Education</b> -<br/>Ernie Honke<br/><b>Trustees</b> – Nils Peterson</p> |
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