

St Peter Lutheran Church

Order of Worship

The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22, 2024

Welcome

Theme of the Day: We don't build bears, as in a "Build a Bear Workshop"—rather we build gods, just like Israelites in Babylon. That's why Isaiah invites us to "Behold your God" (Isaiah 40:9). And our God is not an inanimate object but a loving and merciful Savior who was crucified for the sins of the world.

The Savior's Birth – A Nativity Presentation

(Please stand, as you are able)

Invocation

P In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

C Amen.

P Prepare ye the way of the Lord

C Hallelujah

P Make His path's straight,

C Oh come, let us worship Him!

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C And to the Holy Spirit.

P As it was in the beginning,

C Is now and will be forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Father, we thank You—especially because in these last days you sent Your Son into this world.

C: **Lord, we cannot come to You on our own. Thank You for coming to us.**

P: We thank You for the Good News that the angels shared with the shepherds:

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.**

P: We thank You, Lord, that the shepherds were able to visit Your infant Son, just as they were

C: **Father, we come to You now, just as we are. We readily admit our sin. We are not the people or church that You would have us to be. We have not lived up to the standard Your Word. Lord, we need the most important Christmas gift of all, the forgiveness of our sins.**

(silence for personal confession and reflection)

P: What a joy to proclaim the grace of God to you! Because of Jesus' birth, His perfect life, His death and resurrection, I assure you that all of your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen! Thank You dear Jesus, for taking away all my sins. Amen!

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 40:1-9

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare^[a] 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:^[b]

"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,^[c] "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty^[d] 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 Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;^[e]

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;^[f]

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Behold your God!"

L This is the Word of the Lord **G Thanks be to God**

Epistle Reading, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?^[a] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,

and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty."

L This is the Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God**

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew **C** **Glory to You, O Lord**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed^[b] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord **C** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

(Please stand, as you are able)

Sermon Hymn LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

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Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

☩ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love
and your faithfulness!

☩ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

P Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.)

C **They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.**

P They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

C **They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;**

P Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

C **Trust in the LORD! He is our help and our shield. The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us.**

(Additional prayers)

P: We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

A **Praise the LORD!**

P: In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Peace of the Lord (Please greet the people around you with God's peace)

Offering

Preface

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all

the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Word of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Communion Distribution *(Please be seated)*

St Peter's Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is a special gift given by Jesus Christ to all baptized believers in the community of faith. In preparing for the Lord's Supper, we are to reflect upon the following questions:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness?
2. Do I believe that, within this Sacrament, the bread and wine are Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins?
3. Do I promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life?
4. Do I confess and believe the same doctrines of faith as the church body with which I am about to commune?

If you are having difficulty in answering "yes" to any of the above questions, please follow the guide of Scripture and refrain from taking communion today. Our Pastor would be glad to visit with you after the service to answer any questions you may have about our Communion practice.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please signal to Pastor by holding up your index finger in front of you.

Non-alcoholic white grape juice is available in the center of the tray, for those with alcohol sensitivities

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's
Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That
the Lord chose such a birth.
- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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O Come Be Born Again

Verse 1

Baby born in Bethlehem
Come be born in me again
Since You don't mind dirty stables
Here's my heart not fit or able
To receive such majesty
Still You humbly come to me

Chorus

O come
O come
O come
O come be born again

Verse 2

Chosen One who chose to be
Suff'ring Savior servant King
Since You don't despise the broken
Here's my heart laid bare and open
To receive Your mercy
As Your Spirit calls to me (Chorus)

Verse 3

All who struggle all who sin
Come and become born again
Come and lay your heavy burdens
At the cross where all's forgiven
At His feet new life begins
Come O sinner enter in (Chorus)

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Living Hope

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-
kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless
grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the
promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory (Chorus)

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

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342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.
- 3 As banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.

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Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the
rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the
rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

(Instrumental Interlude)

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.
With my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace! **C Serve the Lord**

P Let us bless the Lord **C Thanks be to God**

Closing Song "Shout To The North"

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

2. Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love

Chorus

3. Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God Who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly.

Chorus 2X

Tag 3X: Lord of heaven and earth

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(Please be seated)

Announcements

Chorus: Shout to the North and the South

Sing to the East and the West

Jesus is savior to all

Lord of heaven and earth

Bridge: We've been through fire we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of his name

We've fallen deeper in love with you
You've burned the truth on our lips

Chorus



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