

# St Peter Lutheran Church

## Order of Worship

*The Second Sunday in Advent, December 8, 2024*

### Welcome

#### Isaiah 40:3-5 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Theme of the Day: We often cry, "Let me out!" Many know addictive behavior like high anxiety, unpredictable anger, or biting sarcasm. Others are chained to a grudge that won't leave until there's revenge. Still others are fighting an inner battle with a skeleton in their closet that is rattling louder and louder. Repentance is the doorway to freedom from these besetting sins, with the result that we see anew God's magnificent glory in Christ our Lord!

*(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.

### Call To Worship

**P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**C** He was with God in the beginning.

**P** Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.

**C** The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

**P** There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through Him all men might believe. He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.

**C** The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world

**P** He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His Own, but His Own did not receive Him.

- C** Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God—
- P** Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.
- C** We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Opening Hymn: In the Beginning

1. In the beginning was the Word  
 And the Word was God  
 And the Word was with God  
 In the beginning was the Word  
 And the Word was God  
 And the Word was with God

And everything that has been made  
 Has been made through Him  
 Nothing made without Him  
 And everything that has been made  
 Has been made through Him  
 Nothing made without Him

### Pre-Chorus

In Him was life  
 That life was light for everyone  
 The darkness tries  
 But the light will not be overcome

### Chorus

The light that shines for everyone  
 Has come into the world  
 The light of Christ the only Son  
 Has come into the world  
 Has come into the world

2. He made his dwelling in the world  
 As the Word made flesh  
 And we've seen his glory.  
 He made his dwelling in the world  
 As the Word made flesh  
 And we've seen his glory

And in the sending of the Son  
 Grace and truth have come  
 Through the one and only  
 And in the sending of the Son  
 Grace and truth have come  
 Through the one and only

### Pre-Chorus

### Chorus 2X

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## Confession and Absolution

- P** God of comfort, how grateful we are that You are patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance. Today we come before You repenting of our sin, confessing our transgressions and longing for Your forgiveness.
- C** Almighty God, I confess to You my sin. It robs me of comfort, deprives me of peace, and fills me with shame.
- P** I have lived in an unholy and ungodly way.

**C** I have lived as if You were not present with me.

**P** I have experienced the futility of my own sinfulness.

**C** I need Your forgiving love.

**P** I ask that You come down and take away my sin.

**C** Because Jesus died for me, I ask in confidence that You will forgive me.

(silence for personal confession and reflection)

**P** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John the Baptist came preaching repentance and faith in Jesus.

**C** "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."

**P** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." And he has spoken definitively and eternally in Jesus. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In the stead and by the command of Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**A** Amen.

### Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**  
*(Please be seated)*

### Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries:<sup>[a]</sup>

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God

## Epistle Reading, 2 Corinthians 7:1-10

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body<sup>[a]</sup> and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

<sup>2</sup> Make room in your hearts<sup>[b]</sup> for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. <sup>3</sup> I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. <sup>4</sup> I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

<sup>5</sup> For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. <sup>8</sup> For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

<sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

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

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## The Holy Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare<sup>[b]</sup> the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

*(Please be seated)*

## Sermon

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

### Sermon Hymn LSB 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

△ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

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## Nicene Creed

**G I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,**

**by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers**

- P** Heavenly Father, we need to repent of our repentance, for it is often shallow and superficial.
- C** **"Lord, show us your glory."** (Exodus 33:18)
- P** We are always going to the far country and must return home as prodigal children.
- C** **"Lord, show us your glory."**
- P** Every day, Father, let us claim your forgiveness in Jesus and may we stand before your great throne on the Last Day covered in your mercy.
- C** **"Lord, show us your glory."**
- P** Let your glory shine around us and in us and through us, to the end that our lips and our lives reflect the glory of Christ.
- C** **"Lord, show us your glory."**  
(Additional prayers)
- P**: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory." (John 1:14)
- A** **Thanks be to God!**
- P**: In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

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

# Offering

## 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.**

## 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  $\text{†}$  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

## **343 Prepare the Royal Highway**

1 Prepare the royal highway;

The King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley

A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory

Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref **Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

2 God's people, see Him coming: Your  
own eternal king! Palm branches strew  
before Him! Spread garments! Shout  
and sing! God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet  
your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry  
nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain



4 His is no earthly kingdom It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Refrain

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**“Glory to the Lamb”** (Larry Dempsey)

Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.

**Chorus:** For He is glorious and worthy to  
be praised, The Lamb upon the throne;  
And unto Him we lift our voice in praise,  
The Lamb upon the throne.

Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

**Chorus**

**Chorus 2X**

CCLI Song # 18558 Larry Dempsey © 1983 ZionSong Music CCLI License # 2235066

**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 To The Altar**

1. Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

**Chorus: O come to the altar**  
**The Father's arms are open wide**  
**Forgiveness was bought with**  
**The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

2. Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

### **Chorus 2X**

### **Bridge**

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!

### **Chorus 2X**

3. Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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### **Grace Alone**

1. Every promise we can make  
Every prayer and step of faith  
Every different we will make  
Is only by His grace  
Every mountain we will climb  
Every ray of hope we shine  
Every blessing left behind  
Is only by His grace

**Chorus: Grace alone which God supplies  
Strength unknown He will provide  
Christ in us, our Cornerstone  
We will go forth in grace alone**

2. Every soul we long to reach Every heart we hope to teach  
Everywhere we share His peace Is only by His grace  
Every loving word we say Every tear we wipe away  
Every sorrow turned to praise Is only by His grace

### **Chorus 3X**

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### **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 “How Great Is Our God”**

The splendor of the King

Clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice

All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light

And darkness tries to hide

And trembles at His voice

And trembles at His voice

And age to age He stands

And time is in His hands

Beginning and the End

Beginning and the End

The Godhead three in one

Father Spirit Son

The Lion and the Lamb

The Lion and the Lamb

**Chorus**

**Chorus**

**How great is our God**

**Sing with me**

**How great is our God**

**And all will see how great**

**How great is our God**

**(BRIDGE)**

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

**Chorus 3X**

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*(Please be seated)*

# Announcements



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