

# St Peter Lutheran Church

## Order of Worship

*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

*December 21, 2025*

### **Nativity Presentation**

#### **“Little Children, Can You Tell?”**

1 Little children, can you tell?  
Do you know the story well,  
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,  
Why the angels sing for joy  
On the Christmas morning.

2 Yes, we know the story well;  
Listen now, and hear us tell,  
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,  
Why the angels sing for joy,  
On the Christmas morning.

### **Mary receives the Good News and she travels with Joseph to Bethlehem**

#### **361 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

Text: Public domain

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

### **No Room at the Inn**

#### **O, Holy Night**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

### **The Savior is Born!**

## **365 Away in a Manger**

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet  
head. The stars in the bright sky looked  
down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Text: Public domain

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the  
sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

## **The Shepherds Hear the Good News**

### **380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

Text: Public domain

ref **Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

## **The Shepherds Share the Good News**

### **We Three Kings**

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

## **The Gifts of the Wisemen**

## **Children's Music Presentation**

### **387 Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Text: Public domain

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

1. Light one candle for hope,  
one bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to every heart,  
He comes! He comes!

2. Light one candle for peace,  
one bright candle for peace,  
He brings peace to every heart,  
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy,  
one bright candle for joy,  
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.

3. Light one candle for Love!  
One bright candle for Love!  
He brings Love to every heart,  
He comes, He comes!

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

## Responsive Psalm Reading, Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,

the world and those who dwell therein,

**<sup>2</sup>for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.**

<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!**

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!**

## Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** (*Please be seated*)

## First Reading, Isaiah 7:10–17

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a

son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

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

### **Epistle Reading, Romans 1:1–7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>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

### Sermon Song, LSB 370 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

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*(Please stand, as you are able)*

### 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.**

## Offering

### Offertory

**☩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### Prayers of the Church

After each petition respond: **☩** Lord in your mercy **☩ Hear our prayer**

### Lord's Prayer

**☩** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**☩ 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

**☩** The Lord be with you. **☩ And also with you.**

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

**☩** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**☩** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en 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 who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## 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  $\text{†}$  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** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Communion Distribution** *(Please be seated)*

### St Peter's Communion Statement

At St. Peter Lutheran Church, we confess that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar (Communion) in, with, and under the bread and wine. (See Matt 26:26-28 and 1 Cor. 11:23-28) In this gift we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and strengthening of faith. Those who share our confession of faith as members of the LCMS may receive Communion here. Anyone else is still welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor during Communion. We ask anyone desiring a blessing to cross their arms over their chest at the railing, and the pastor will bless you.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please signal to Pastor by holding up your index finger in front of you. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available in the center of the tray, for those with alcohol sensitivities.

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 doctrine of faith as the church body with which I am about to commune

### **349 Hark the Glad Sound**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name

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### **Christ Be Our Light**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own,  
your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Refrain: **Christ, be our light!**  
**Shine in our hearts.**  
**Shine through the darkness.**  
**Christ, be our light!**  
**Shine in your church gathered today.**

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

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### **374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. (Refrain)

2 Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

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### **Nunc Dimittis**



**1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

## **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.**

## **Closing Song, LSB 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,

Now raise to heav'n our voice;

He from whom joy streameth

Poor in a manger lies;

Not so brightly beameth

The sun in yonder skies.

Thou my Savior art!

Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;

I cannot rise to Thee.

Cheer my wearied spirit,

O pure and holy Child;

Through Thy grace and merit,

Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,

Draw me unto Thee!

Draw me unto Thee!

3 Now through His Son doth shine

The Father's grace divine.

Death was reigning o'er us

Through sin and vanity

Till He opened for us

A bright eternity.

May we praise Him there!

May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?

Where but on heav'nly ground?

Where the angels singing

With all His saints unite,

Sweetest praises bringing

In heav'nly joy and light.

Oh, that we were there!

Oh, that we were there!

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## **Announcements**