

St Peter Lutheran Church

Order of Worship

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 4, 2026

Welcome

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Opening Song, LSB 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

1 The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.

2 The gifts flow from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

3 The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's
For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need
Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends
Us forth in His blest care.

4 The gifts are there each day
The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear,
Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself,
Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing
Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!

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(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 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**² Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

**³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

**⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

**⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.**

**⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy;
**⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

**¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

Salutation and Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** (*Please be seated*)

First Reading, Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Epistle Reading, Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us^[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known^[b] to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ^[c] ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee^[d] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,^[e] to the praise of his glory.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, Luke 2:22-40

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant^[a] depart in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ 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, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. ^[b] She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ 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.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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

(Please be seated)

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Sermon Song, LSB 519 In His Temple Now Behold Him

1 In His temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord; Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word. Now to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord.	2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie While His aged saints adore Him Ere in perfect faith they die. Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, the_incarinate God Most High!
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3 Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

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(Please stand, as you are able)

Apostles’ Creed

G **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.

Peace of the Lord

Offering

Offertory

C 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: **P** Lord in your mercy **C** Hear our prayer

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, 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 † 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 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

These Old Eyes – Praise Team Presentation

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are
shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
- 3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the
mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

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Only By Grace

Verse: Only by grace can we enter
Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavor
But by the blood of the Lamb
Into Your presence You call us
You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us
And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

Repeat Verse

Instrumental Bridge

Repeat Verse

Tag: Now by Your grace we come **2X**

Bridge

Lord, if You mark
Our transgressions
Who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace
We are cleansed
By the blood of the Lamb

Repeat Bridge

"In His Temple"

The voice of the Lord will thunder
The voice of the Lord is majestic.
The voice of the Lord is power.
O worship the Lord.

The voice of the Lord shakes the earth.
The voice of the Lord strikes with
lightning
The voice of the Lord breaks the forests
O worship the Lord.

Chorus: And in His temple all cry "Glory, glory to His Name,"

And in His temple all cry, "Glory, glory to His Name!"

And in Your temple we cry "Glory, glory to Your Name,"

And in Your temple we cry, "Glory, glory to Your Name!"

The Lord sits enthroned forever.
The Lord is the King forever.
Ascribe to the Lord forever
The glory due His Name.

The Lord gives strength to His people
The Lord gives peace to His people.
The Lord will bless all his people
Give glory to His Name. **Chorus**

Instrumental Interlude

Chorus

Song # 4006648 Author [Bill Kirkwood](#) Copyright 1998 Kirkwood Music CCLI License #2235066

"Your Grace Is Enough"

Verse 1: Great is Your faithfulness, O God of Jacob
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
Where nothing can keep us apart
So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, O God

Chorus: For Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2: Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob

You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of heaven's vict'ry
And all Your people sing along
So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, O God

Chorus x2

CCLI Song # 4477026 Author: Matt Maher© 2003 Thankyou Music CCLI License # 2235066

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 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Announcements