

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 – 10:00 PM

✚ **Gathering** ✚

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



Prepare now to give thanks to God: Place an envelope in the offering plate on the way to Communion *or* use the QR code *or* download the Vanco Mobile app on your smart phone. Search on “York” and choose St Peter’s Lutheran. It’s easy! Give thanks generously for God’s abundant grace.

Prelude

“The First Noel”

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

—**St. Peter’s Handbell Choir**

“Joy to the World”

arr. Kevin McChesney

—**St. Peter’s Handbell Choir**

“O Holy Night”

arr. Tim Lambert

**Entrance
Hymn**

#45
Green

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

As we gather at the manger of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us purify our souls by confessing our sins.

Silence for self-examination

Lord Jesus, you have come from heaven to save us. Lord, have mercy.

C: Forgive us when we try to save ourselves. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are God's Word made flesh who dwells with us. Christ, have mercy.

C: Forgive us when we fail to share your grace and truth. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Emmanuel, God with us. Lord, have mercy.

C: Forgive us when we do not seek your presence daily. Lord, have mercy.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to each of you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Gloria
In
Excelsis
#71
Green

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

Prayer of the Day

Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Let us pray, Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

The assembly is seated.

✠ Word ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Welcome

First Reading — *Isaiah 9:2-7*

A reading from Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. ³You have given them great joy, Lord; you have made

them happy. They rejoice in what you have done, as people rejoice when they harvest grain or when they divide captured wealth. ⁴For you have broken the yoke that burdened them and the rod that beat their shoulders.

You have defeated the nation that oppressed and exploited your people, just as you defeated the army of Midian long ago. ⁵The boots of the invading army and all their bloodstained clothing will be destroyed by fire. ⁶A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called,

“Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,” “Prince of Peace.” ⁷His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David’s successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²**Sing to the LORD and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings and come in to his courts.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.**

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading — Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the

blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands to welcome the gospel.

**Gospel
Procession
Hymn**
#RWSB
R111

Sing stanza one before the reading and stanza two following the reading.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

1 Break forth, O beau - tious heav'n - ly light, and ush - er in the morn - ing;
2 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to thee, Lord Je - sus Christ, be gi - ven;

ye shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, but hear the an - gel's warn - ing.
thou hast our broth - er deigned to be, our focs in sun - der riv - en.

This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be,
Oh, grant us through our day of grace with con - stant praise to seek thy face;

¹³
the pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.
grant us ere long in glo - ry with prais - es to a - dore thee.

Holy Gospel — Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. ²It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³Everyone went to their own town to be listed. ⁴So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. ⁵He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay. ⁸There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all

the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, ¹⁴"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!" ¹⁵The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. ²⁰The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Procession Hymn "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (Stanza 2)


The Message

The assembly is seated.

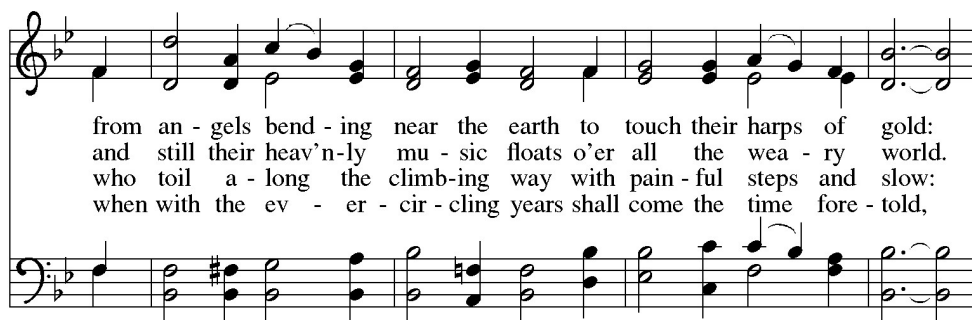
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

**Hymn
Of the
Day**
#54
Green

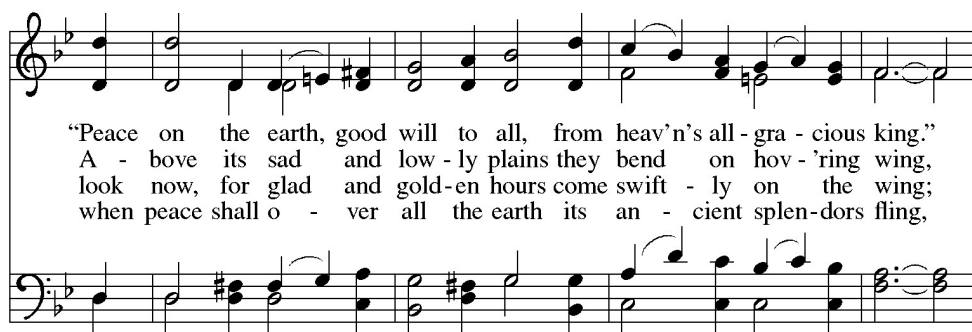
It Came upon the Midnight Clear



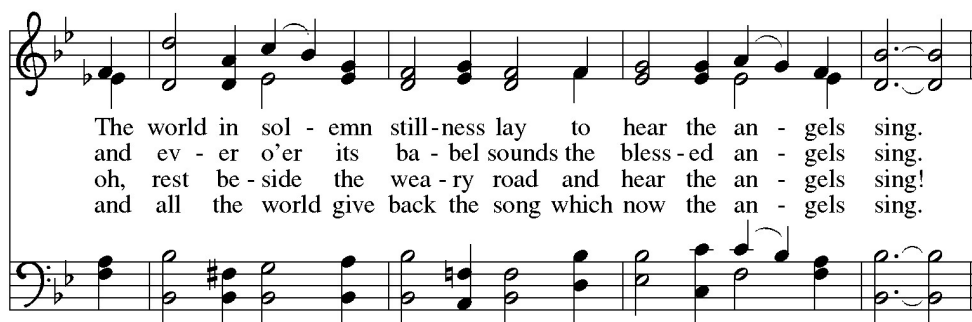
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Nicene Creed

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**C: 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; by the power of the Holy
Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

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.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayer of the Church

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, let us pray to the Father for the church, the world, and all people, according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, open the ears and hearts of your Church to hear the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth and grant us voices to share that good news of peace and salvation with all people. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to see with wonder the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos you have created. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Open our hearts to receive your Son, the child born to us, who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring peoples, and establish peace in our world, in our families, and in our lives. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Make us faithful in our vocations as were the shepherds in the field and surprise us with your presence. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Extend Mary's loving care to all who are vulnerable. Move us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with those who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Open the eyes of our faith to see the multitude of the heavenly hosts, including those who have died trusting you. Accept our thanks for the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed

the appearance of your grace and your salvation for all. Keep us strong in our faith so that on that great and glorious day of Christ's coming, we, too, might see Him face to face. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray into your hands, Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**



Peace

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God does not hold our sins against us. This is true peace. Like Jesus with his disciples, the pastor shares the word of reconciliation from God to us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

We share Christ's forgiving and reconciling love with one another, binding ourselves to one another as community. As we are at peace with God, so we are also at peace with one another.

OFFERING – WE RETURN THANKS TO GOD AND SUPPORT GOSPEL MINISTRY

 Please prepare your offering in an envelope to place in the offering plate when you are dismissed for Communion **Or** use the QR code or download the Vanco Mobile app on your phone. You may also mail your offering to the church office or give through our website www.stpeterslutheranyork.com
 Also be sure you have filled out the attendance card.

Everything we are and have belongs to God and is entrusted to us for God's glory. We are committed to sharing God's resources so that we can be a vital center for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help others locally and around the world.

The Great Thanksgiving – The Eucharistic Meal

As the baptized children of God, we are invited by God to share the heavenly banquet.

Jesus seats us at his table where we are delivered from sin, death, and evil
by his body and blood from his death on the cross.

In this meal, Jesus forgives our sins, granting us life and salvation.

He is truly present here and reveals himself to us in the breaking of bread.

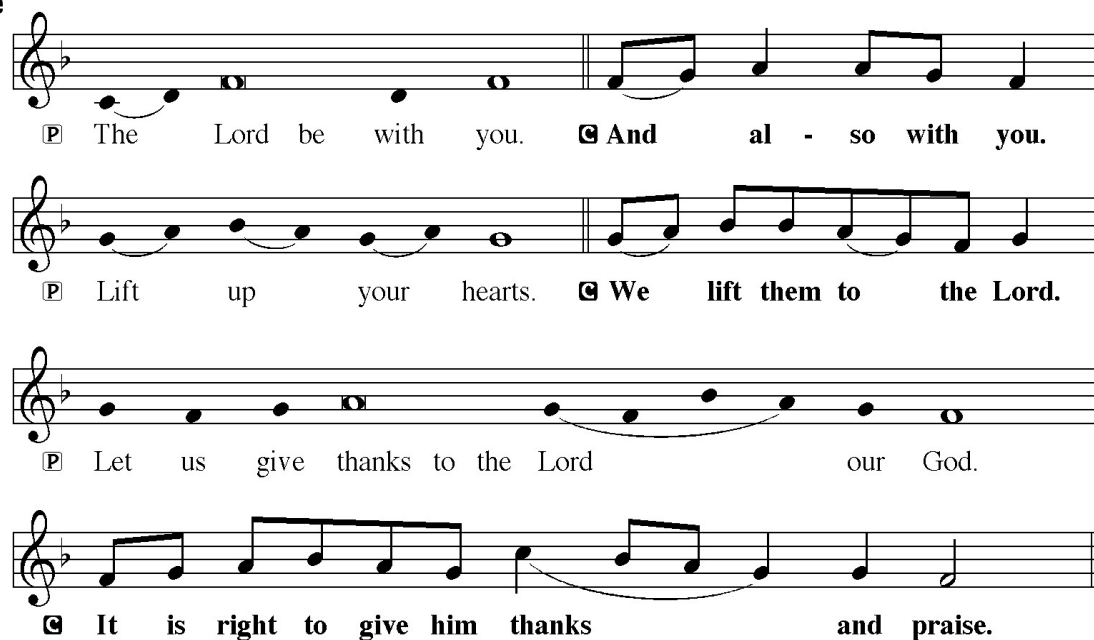
When we share Jesus' meal, we receive the Holy Spirit to live in hope and joy.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **C: Amen.**

Dialogue



P The Lord be with you. A And al - so with you.
 P Lift up your hearts. A We lift them to the Lord.
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 A It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



A 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your children.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. **C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. **C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Fraction — The Breaking of the Bread

The Body of Christ is broken as he was broken for us in the Passover, in the loaves, and on the cross. He gives himself to us as he fed the multitudes. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb who gave himself to deliver all people from slavery to sin.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the true bread that has come down from heaven; he is our Emmanuel, God with us. **C: Lord, feed us with your love.**

Distribution

The pastor will commune. Then she will commune those with infirmities in the pew. Then the congregation. Place your offering in the offering box. Receive the Body of Christ in your open palm from the pastor and hold onto it. Then proceed to the assisting minister to carefully dip the host into the Blood of Christ. BE SURE NOT TO GET YOUR FINGERS WET. Return to your seat by the side aisle. Give thanks to God for such grace!

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

C: Amen.

Please join in singing during the distribution of the sacrament.

Communion Carol

#39 Green
Stz. 1,2,4

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**Communion
Carol**
#60 Green

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lavs his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die.

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

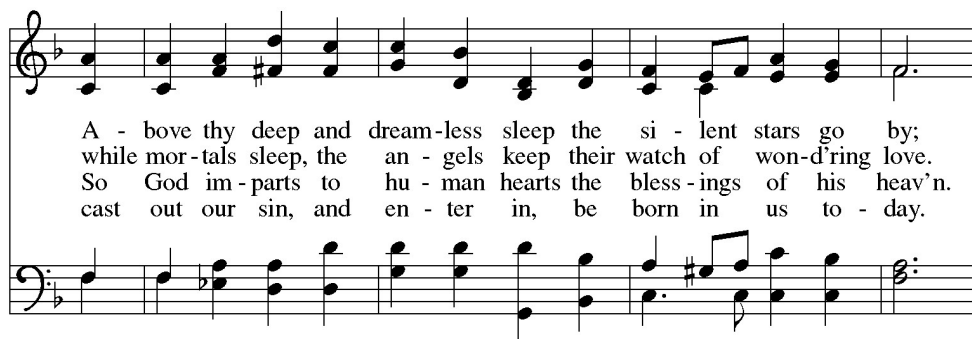
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

**Communion
Hymn**
#41 Green

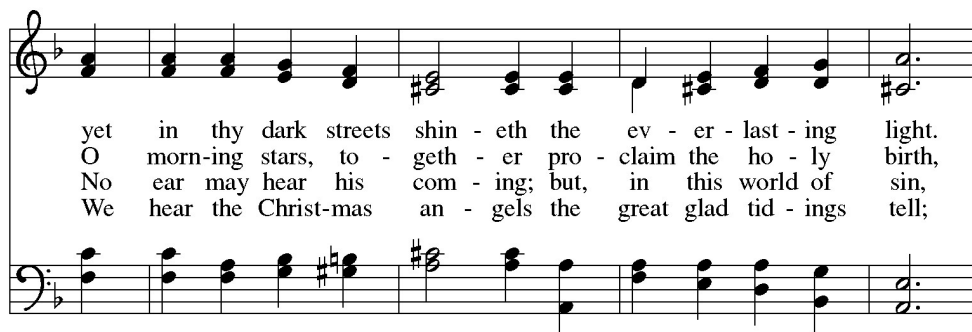
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

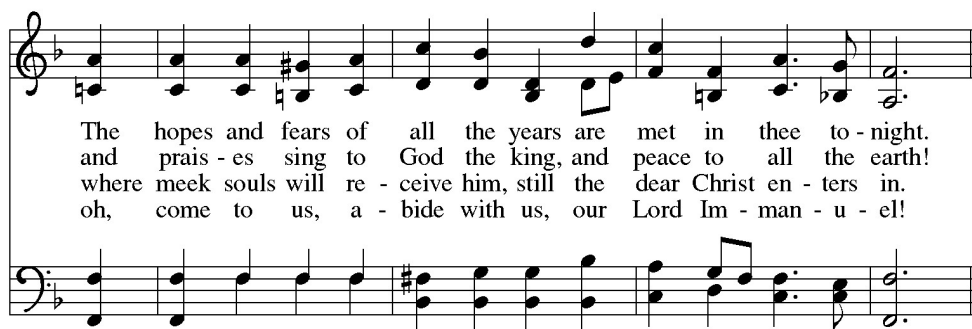
A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

The assembly stands

Post Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

✝ Sending ✝

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.
 What happened here today is just the beginning.
 We have been given life, the Holy Spirit, and purpose.
 Now, God sends us out to tell others of the great things we have experienced here.
 God sends us into the world as the living Body of Christ.
 We are blessed to be a blessing.

The handheld candles are lit from the aisle candles and the light passed along.

Candlelighting

#65 Green

The first stanza will be sung in German.

You are invited to raise your candle on the 3rd stanza.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Benediction

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day through the Word made flesh. **C: Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. **C: Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The hand candles are extinguished.

Sending Carol #55 Green

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest! **C: Peace to God's people on earth!**
 Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God

In memory of *Barbara Roach*, by Donna Roach & family.

The Bulletins are given to the glory of God,

In memory of *Samuel & Ruth Shettel*, by Susan Shettel.

The Christmas Candles were given to the glory of God

In memory of *the Callahan & Shettel families*, by Susan Shettel.

Announcements

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the narthex.

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**The Christmas Poinsettias
are given to the Glory of God . . .**



In memory of *Altoona family*, by Gail Bentzel.

In memory of our parents, *Charlie & Mary Innerst, and Richard & Millie Geisler*
by Rick and Joan Geisler & family

In memory of my sister, *Sharon Blankenship*, by Rick and Joan Geisler & family

In memory of *our precious parents Mary Innerst & Charlie Innerst and Pat & John Miller*
our grandon's dad, Brent Amspacher & brother, Wyatt Amspacher
our sweet sister & brother, Joleen Brown and Jim Miller.
by Chuck & Johnna Innerst & family.

In memory of *my husband, Dennis O. Nace*, by Carolyn A. Nace.

In memory of *Helen & Sam Quickel and Jean & John Yates, Quickel*, by their loving family

In memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Clinton H. 'Whitie' Roderick*, by their daughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rohrbaugh*, by their granddaughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Roderick, Sr.*, by their granddaughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of *Brent Schlegel*, by Pastor Schlegel

In memory of *Bill & Betty Schlegel*, by Pastor Schlegel

In honor of *David Stoverschlegel*, by Pastor Schlegel

In honor of *Brad Schlegel*, by Pastor Schlegel

In memory of *Samuel & Ruth Shettel*, by Susan Shettel

In memory of *departed family and friends*, by Sandy & Mearl Williams

MEMBERS & FRIENDS



Susan Becker—Tom Brusan—Janice Cromer—Rich Davis—Don Gise—Shelva Gise—Bruce Harget—Cheryl Hibner—Samantha Hilker—Ken Humphreys—Marsha Humphreys—Lori Joseph—Shirley Lutz—Ron Malehorn—Michele McFarland—Philip Michael—Brenda Croumer Miller—Pr Judy McKee—Charlie Neff—Howan Neff—Scott Neff—Kathy Pugh—Dolores Rehmeyer—Betty Roach—Donna Roach—Bill & Rachel Sanders—Nancy Stough Miller—James Thompson—Vickie Toomey—Matthew Walters—Zach Weiland—Margaret Wiley—Dave Yates—Lois Yates—Stephen Young—family & friends of Dot Barnett.

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Arnold—Norma Buck—Evelin Burgos—Stu & Linda Eisenhart—Bill Everhart—Don Everhart—Helen Everhart—Doris Hoffacker—Ken & Joyce Innerst—Carla & Mike Lehr—Jean Leiphart—John Lehr—Joanne V. Martin—Marguerite Ness—Betty Roach—Lois Smith—Lois Snyder—Joyce Topper

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Monday, DECEMBER 25
10:00 AM [NO 8:45am service]
St. Peter's Lutheran

POTLUCK BRUNCH PARTY AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, DECEMBER 31, 10:30 AM

St. Peter's Lutheran
Carol singing following to follow.



EPIPHANY WORSHIP

Sundays, JANUARY 7 thru FEBRUARY 11
At St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York
8:00 AM — Early Service [No 8:45 AM service at St. Peter's]
At Christ Lutheran, Manchester — 10:30 AM

* **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 3:30 PM** — at St. Peter's
* * **Sunday, FEBRUARY 18** — Worship will resume at St. Peter's Lutheran

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
947 North George Street, York PA 17404
8:45 AM—Worship Service

Church Staff

The Reverend Beth A. Schlegel, *STS* Pastor
Terri Schroll Secretary
Kristen Hartman—Susan Hartman Sextons

Our phone number is: **717-854-0589**
Our Website is: <http://www.stpeterslutheranyork.org>
Our Email Address is: stpeterslutheran@verizon.net
Pastor Beth Schlegel: Phone #: 717-495-8894
Email: pastorschlegel@live.com

This Week **CHURCH** **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday & Tuesday
Holiday—Office Closed
Wednesday & Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM
Friday
OFFICE CLOSED