St. Peter's Lutheran Church 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 — 8:45 AM

+ Gathering +

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

We are awaiting the coming of Jesus at the glorious Day of the Lord.

We wait with Mary in hope, with confident faith, and in the joy of expectation.

Let us enter the presence of God in holy reverence.



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.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

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 \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you are the promised Messiah, anointed to save God's people. Lord, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we look to others for what you alone give. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring the kingdom of God to us and call us to repentance. Christ, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we do not seek God's rule over our lives. Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Redeemer proclaimed by the prophets. Lord, have mercy. **C**: Forgive us when we do not heed God's Word spoken to us. Lord, have mercy.

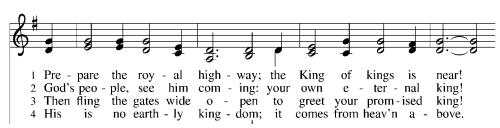
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to each of you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and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

Hymn Of Praise #26 Green

Prepare the Royal Highway





Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer of the Day

Lord be with you. **C**: **And also with you**. Let us pray,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

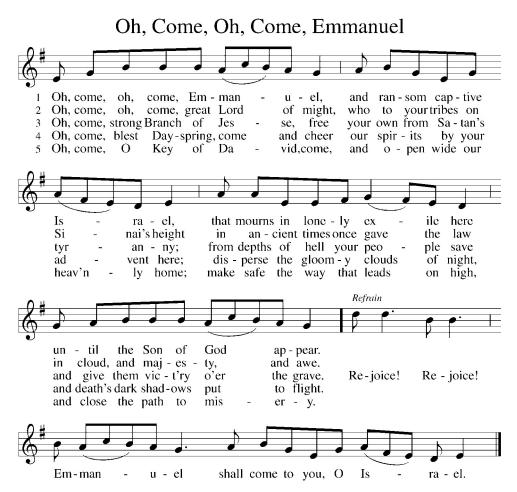
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

The assembly is seated.

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stz. 2



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln. 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Second Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the second candle.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we reflect your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to reflect your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until the day when none hurt or destroy over all the earth. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

+ Word +

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

God engages us in holy conversation – speaking and listening

Let us open our ears and hearts to hear God's voice in the words spoken to us.

First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, "Cry out!"

grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" "See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

'You have been gracious to your I land, O LORD; you have restored the good for-I tune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saving.

for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their ' hearts to him.

^oTruly, his salvation is very near to 'those who fear him, that his glory may dwell 'in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have I met together; righteousness and peace have I kissed each other.

- "Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven."
- ¹²The LORD will indeed 'grant prosperity, and our land will 'yield its increase.
- ¹³Righteousness shall 'go before him, and peace shall be a pathway 'for his feet.

Second Reading — 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what

sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, "2 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? "3 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. "4 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; "5" and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

Gospel Acclamation #168 ELW

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The cantor will sing the alleluia once alone and then the congregation repeats it.



Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.*
All flesh shall see the salva-tion of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)

Holy Gospel — Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel According to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 'As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " 'John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is

more powerful than I is coming after me; I am of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

The Message

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.





Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er. Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him! and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR. *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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.

Prayers of the Church

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers to the Father for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Mighty God, send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **C**: receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of world leaders toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **C**: receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing, especially those we name now.... (pause). Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting test results or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **C**: receive our prayer.

Remind us that with you a thousand years is like a day. Bless our memory of the saints from ages past and inspire us to live with faith as we await the completion of your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. **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.

The assembly is seated.

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.

The ministers make ready the bread and wine

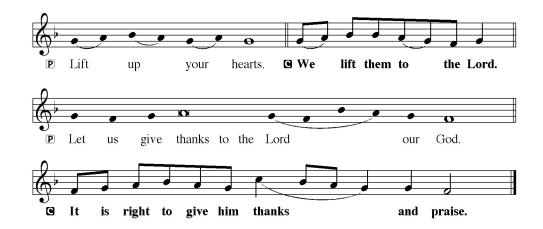
Offertory Prayer

Let us prav.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. C: Amen.



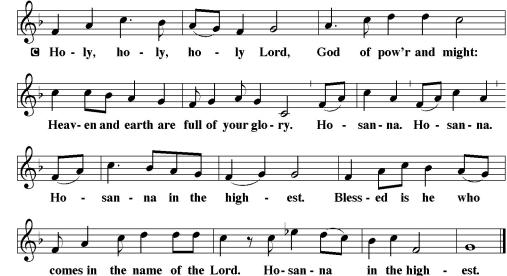




Preface

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, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Eucharistic Prayer

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. 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, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and cup; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him all glory and honor are 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 and He is the heavenly Bridegroom who welcomes the Church as His beautiful bride.

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, Emmanuel, who has come to save you.

C: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Distribution

The pastor will commune. and then commune those with impaired mobility in the pew. Then the ushers will dismiss you from the center aisle to come forward, place your offering in the receptacle, and receive the wafer in your open palm from the pastor. Hold the host with your fingers.

The body of Christ, given for you.

Then proceed to the assisting minister to dip the host carefully into the blood of Christ.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **C: Amen.**

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. Almighty God, in the Body and Blood of your Son, you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourish us by this life-giving meal, and send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **C**: **Amen.**

♣ Sending ♣

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Go! Messiah is coming!

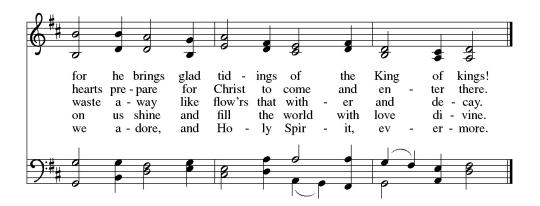
Benediction

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. In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn #249 ELW

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry





Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Dismissal

Postlude

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God.

The Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God, In memory of Edna R. Roderick, by her daughter, Annette Roderick.

Hand Bells Rehearsal - Thursdays, DECEMBER 14, *7:30 PM

Council Meeting — Tuesday, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 3, 2023 OFFERING

General \$ 2,194.53 Pointsettias \$ 160.00 Masonry \$ 150.00 HVAC \$ 25.00 Bulletins \$ 60.00

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000735.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Liturgical music and hymns are used with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual License #20735 and OneLicense.net License #A-723788 and CCLI #11557761 and podcast license #20611432.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday, DECEMBER 14, 6:30 PM

St. Peter's Lutheran

A service of healing and remembrance.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, DECEMBER 16, 4:00-6:00 PM

St. Peter's Lutheran, York

—Live Music from Emigsville Band —Reading of Nativity Story & The Night Before Christmas —Visit from Santa Claus —Make your own ornaments —Refreshments



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, DECEMBER 24

3:30 PM — St. Peter's Lutheran

7:00 PM — Christ, Manchester

10:00 PM — St. Peter's Lutheran

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





As disciples and stewards of Jesus Christ, we, the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church are committed to the preaching § teaching of the Word of God to all people. We will reach out to one another and to others, giving and receiving, in worship, fellowship, and witness to Jesus Christ!

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—Fabian Marro—Michele McFarland—Philip Michael—Brenda Croumer Miller—Pr Judy

McKee—Charlie Neff —Rowan 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.

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Arnold—Norma Buck—Evelin Burgos—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

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

Terri Schroll

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 thru Thursday 8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Friday

OFFICE CLOSED