St. Peter's Lutheran Church **1st Sunday of Advent** December 3, 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 🕂 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 \pm 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** #32 Green Fling wide the door,

Fling Wide the Door the gate; the King of un bar glo - ry the rock mer - cy's 2 He is of our be - lief, the heart of 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true Come, Lord, our Sav ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are 0 pen



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704; arr. hymnal version Text © 1978 Lulierau Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 2006 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 your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

+ The Advent Wreath +

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 ever-green Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Stz. 1





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

First Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace; 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 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. [®]We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. [®]Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [®]Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up-¹ on the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and ' come to help us.

^aRestore us, O'God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we'shall be saved.

[•]O LORD' God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers ' of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the ' bread of tears; you have given them bowls of ' tears to drink.

[•]You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O¹God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we¹ shall be saved.

¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of ' your right hand,

the son of man you have made so strong 'for yourself.

¹⁷And so will we never turn a-¹ way from you; give us life, that we may call up-¹ on your name.

¹⁸Restore us, O LORD['] God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we ' shall be saved.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians

^aGrace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^aI give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ^bfor in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind —^bjust as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Show us your steadfast 'love, O LORD, * and grant us 'your salvation. Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)

Holy Gospel — Mark 13:24-37 The Gospel According to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴ "In those days, after that suffer- ₁	ens will be shaken. 26Then they will see 'the
ing, the sun will be darkened, and the moon	Son of Man coming in clouds' with great pow-
will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be fall-	er and glory. 27Then he will send out the an-
ing from heaven, and the powers in the heav-	gels, and gather his elect from the four winds,

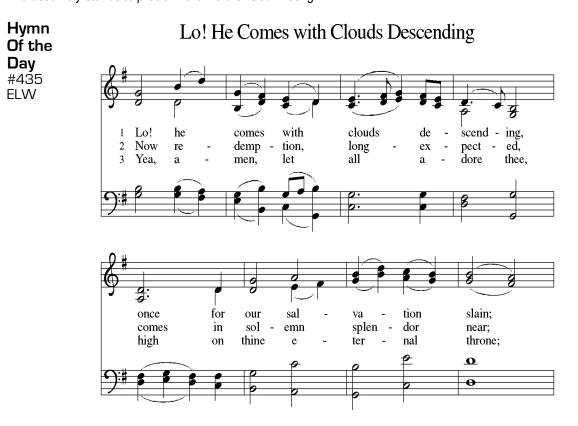
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.³¹Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. ³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the

Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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.



7



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

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.

Holy God, call your church into holy fellowship as we await your restoration of all things. Energize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Open our eyes to see how all creation signals your presence: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Cause the nations to tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation might prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to peoples in conflict, especially Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Hamas. Teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas and people facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer**.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially those we name now..... (*pause*)..... Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to them that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

Send out your angels, the messengers of your Word, to gather your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of the saints who dwell in your eternal presence, especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today. Join our hopefulness with theirs as we await the great Day of Christ's coming. 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

E 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

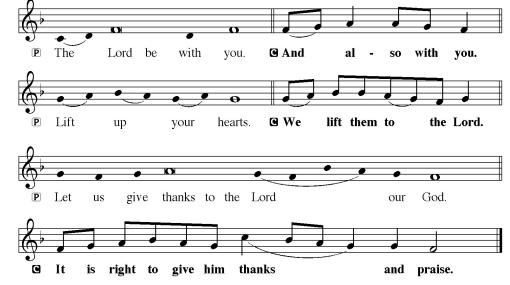
10

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

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.**

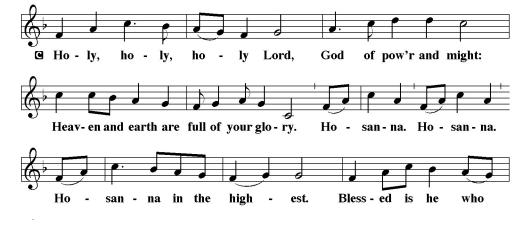
Dialogue



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:

Sanctus





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.

Return to your seat by the side aisle. Give thanks to God for such grace!

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.**

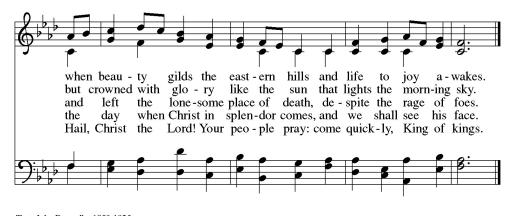
🕂 Sending 🕂

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.**





Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God.

Hand Bells Rehearsal - Thursdays, DECEMBER 7,14,21, - 6:30 PM

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

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

OFFERING General \$ 1,367.00 Pointsettias \$ 80.00 Masonry \$ 90.00 Christmas \$ 100.00

HVAC \$ 55.00 Capital Improvement \$ 250.00 Altar Flowers \$ 50.00

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.

"The King Shall Come" Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. OneLicense.net License #A-723788.

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 11At St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York8:00 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

God Has a Mission!

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 Marrro —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—the family & friends of Dick Crone.

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

<u>Church Staff</u> The Reverend Beth A. Schlegel, *STS* Terri Schroll Kristen Hartman—Susan Hartman

Pastor Secretary 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 <u>OFFICE HOURS</u>

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

> Friday OFFICE CLOSED