

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

December 10, 2023

Welcome to All in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

✝ **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.

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

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

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

Opening

Hymn

#26

Green

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

Apostolic Greeting & Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

P: Let us pray. . . 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 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 evergreen Christmas tree.

In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stz. #2

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
- 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
- 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
- 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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

2nd Sunday in Advent *Use this blessing when lighting the second candle.*

P: Praise to you, O God, 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

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry? All people are 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. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!” ¹⁰See, 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.

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your ¹ land, O LORD;
 you have restored the good for-¹ tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity ¹ of your people
 and blotted out ¹ all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD¹ God is saying,
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn
 their ¹ hearts to him.

⁹**Truly, his salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear him,
 that his glory may dwell ¹ in our land.**

¹⁰Mercy and truth have ¹ met together;
 righteousness and peace have ¹ kissed each other.

¹¹**Truth shall spring up ¹ from the earth,
 and righteousness shall look ¹ down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed ¹grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall ¹go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway ¹for his feet.**

Second Reading — 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

P: 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 ¹of the Lord.*
All flesh shall see the salva- ¹tion of God. *Alleluia.* (Luke 3:4, 6)

Holy Gospel — Mark 1:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴John 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 not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

The Message

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

**Hymn
of the
Day**
#29
Green

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



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: FRIEDRICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes 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

P: 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.

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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, pastor shares the word of reconciliation from God to us.

P: 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.

✚ **Thanksgiving** ✚ We respond to God's abundant grace and mercy

Support God's Mission

Offering *Please consider making your thank offering to God ...*

By Mail to St. Peter's Lutheran Church 947 N. George St. York PA

Or **SCAN HERE** >



Or **ONLINE** at www.StPetersLutheranYork.com.

In the **Purple** box, Click **Donate** button to set up a one-time or recurring donation.

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Thanksgiving For the Word

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, From the beginning you have created life and faith by the utterance of your mouth. Open our ears to hear you

as you speak through the Sacred Scriptures which tell us of your faithfulness. Open our hearts to hear your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who calls us to you, teaches us to trust, and shows us to love. Open our minds to receive your wisdom as the Holy Spirit comes into us with your Word to guide us and shape us into your image. Accept our thanks for the gift of your Word by which we know you as our God and Savior, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us how 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.**

✠ Sending ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.
Go! The Messiah is coming!

Benediction

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 Hymn #249 ELW

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

Dismissal

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

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

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com.

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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

God's Has a Mission!

As disciples and stewards of Jesus Christ, we, the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church are committed to the preaching and 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 Bruson—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 Marrero—Michele McFarland—Philip Michael—Pr Judy McKee—Brenda Croumer Miller—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—John Lehr—Jean Leiphart—Joanne V. Martin—Marguerite Ness—Betty Roach—Lois Smith—Lois Snyder—Joyce Topper

DECEMBER 3, 2023

OFFERING

General \$ 2,194.53
Masonry \$ 150.00

HVAC \$ 25.00
Bulletin \$ 60.00

Poinsettia \$ 160.00

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 thru Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Friday
Office Closed