

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

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

✝ **Gathering** ✝

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

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.

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

C: Amen

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

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**

Apostolic Greeting

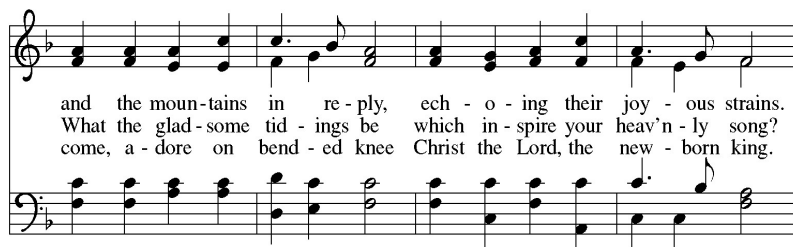
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**Canticle
Of Praise**

#71 Blue

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;

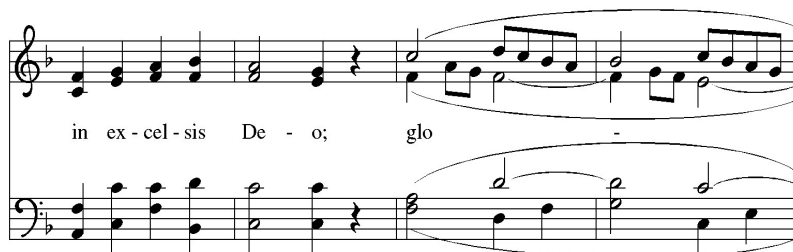


and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid-ings be which in-spire your heav'n-ly song?
 come, a-dore on bend-ed knee Christ the Lord, the new-born king.

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

P: Let us pray. . . Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

✝ Word ✝

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

Kids in Christ

First Reading — *Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

A reading from Isaiah

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹from the heavens;

²**Praise him, all you an-¹gels of his; praise him, ¹all his host.**

³Praise him, ¹sun and moon; praise him, all you ¹shining stars.

⁴**Praise him, heav-¹en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD;
for he commanded, and they ¹were created.

⁶**He made them stand fast forev-¹er and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not ¹pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD ¹from the earth, you sea monsters ¹and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, ¹snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do-¹ing his will;**

⁹mountains ¹and all hills, fruit trees ¹and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts ¹and all cattle, creeping things and ¹winged birds;**

¹¹kings of the earth ¹and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young ¹men and maidens, old and ¹young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD,
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over ¹earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his ¹ loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading – Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Gospel Acclamation [sung to the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing]

The cantor will sing first, then the cantor and congregation sing together. The cantor will sing the verse, and the congregation repeats the Alleluia.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Allelu!

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule ¹ in your hearts, * and let the word of Christ dwell ¹ in you richly. *Alleluia.* (Col. 3:15, 16)

Holy Gospel – Luke 2:22-40

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³[as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”], ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined

for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

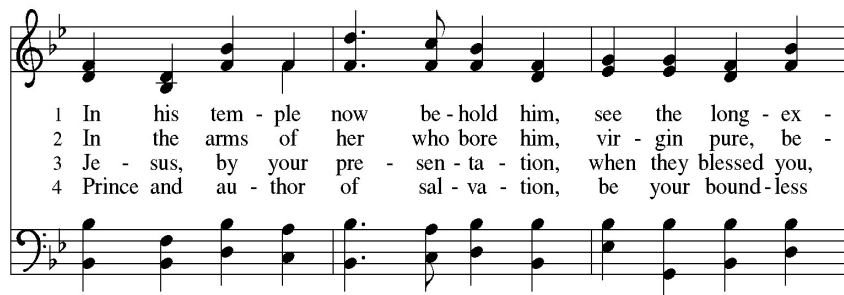
P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Message

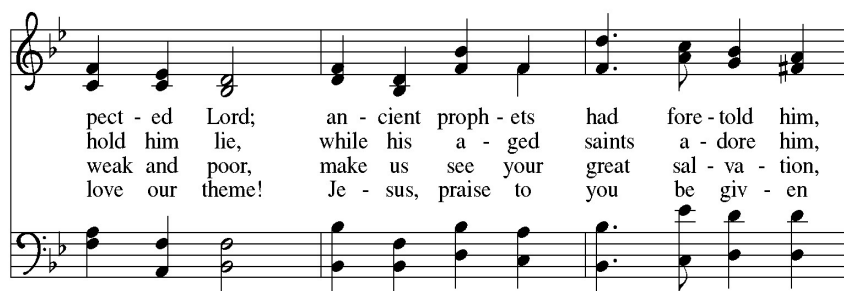
The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day #417 ELW

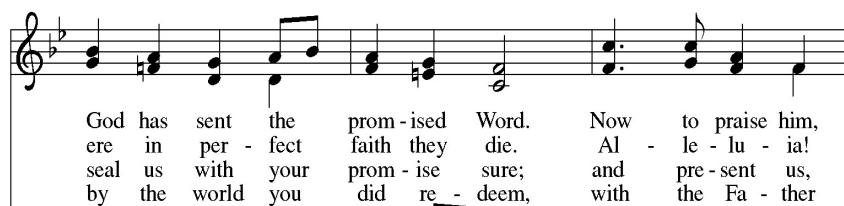
In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re-deem-ed shall break forth with one ac-cord.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Lo, the in-car-nate God Most High!
 in your glo-ry, to your Fa-ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir-it God of maj-es-ty su-preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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: 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.

P: Lord of love, give life to your church and inspire faith in the hearts of your people, that we might rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our congregations places of belonging for all people. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Make our communities of faith to be joyful and welcome places for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the insight of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the wisdom of elders. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Open our hearts and voices to sing Your praise in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. Sustain organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, protect from abuse and neglect, address trauma, and rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Give hope and patience to all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID, and all those we name now.....*[pause]* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accept our thanks for all those who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Pondering the mystery of your 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, 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

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Canticle of Thanksgiving #40 Green

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Thanksgiving For the Word

P: Let us pray. Merciful Lord, let the brightness of your light shine on your Church, so that all of us, instructed by your Word, may walk in the light of your truth and attain eternal life; 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 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.
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.

Benediction

P: 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.**

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

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

Closing**Hymn**

#56

Green

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

Dismissal

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

Postlude



Helen Louise Everhart **July 30, 1927 – December 22, 2023**

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life, **Helen Louise Everhart** will be commended to the Lord at a tribute service on January 5, 11:00 am, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. *Helen* was the wife of the late Martin L. Everhart, Jr. for 57 years; she was the daughter of the late Sara M. Porter Hall & George A. Miller; the mother of Wendy Voorheis & Jolie Brown; the grandmother of Justin & Kyle Voorheis, Kristy Kochenhour, Derek, and the late Stacey Jo Brown; the great grandmother of Aidan, Madden & Addison Kochenhour & Andrew Brown.

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com.
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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—family & friends of Dot Barnett—the family & friends of Helen Everhart

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Arnold—Norma Buck—Evelin Burgos—Stew & Linda Eisenhart—Bill Everhart—Don 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 24, 2023

OFFERING

General \$ 1,423.00 HVAC \$ 125.00 Christmas \$ 3,732.00

Troop 57 Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, JANUARY 27, 3:00-7:00 PM at Christ Lutheran Manchester

Tickets are \$10 [adults] \$5 [children]

Please see the Aldinger family if you would like to purchase tickets in advance.



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH YORK
PARTNER # 20144

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CHRISTMAS EVENT

POTLUCK BRUNCH PARTY AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, DECEMBER 31, 10:30 AM at 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]

10:30 AM — At Christ Lutheran, Manchester

* **Ash Wednesday Service, FEBRUARY 14, 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

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Our Email Address is: stpeterslutheran@verizon.net

Pastor Beth Schlegel: Phone #: 717-495-8894

Email: pastorschlegel@live.com

This Week
CHURCH OFFICE
HOURS

Monday
Holiday—Office Closed

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

Friday
Office Closed