

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
4th Sunday in Advent

December 24, 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.**

Soon and Very Soon

Opening Hymn
#744
Blue



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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 your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, 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.#4&5

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: VENI, EMMANUEL. French processional, 15th cent.

4th Sunday in Advent *Use this blessing when lighting the fourth candle.*

P: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you.
Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these can -
dles, and more precious than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail
to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We
pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, your promised Son and
our Savior. **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 — 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from 2 Samuel

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

^{48c}for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Second Reading — Romans 16:25-27

A reading from 1 Thessalonians

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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. Here I am, the servant ¹ of the Lord; * let it be with me according ¹ to your word. *Alleluia.* (Luke 1:38)

Holy Gospel — Luke 1:26-38

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come

upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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
#28
Green

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show the glo - ry of the Son!
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, but from God's own mys - tic breath,
3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; praise the per - fect Son of God.
fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun when God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in one, ea - ger now his race to run!
down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;
trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
riding out, returning home
as the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
girds himself in flesh to run
for the trophies of our souls,
longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
breathing vict'ry with your light;
darkness cannot hide your flame,
shining bright as Jesus' name.

Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

Text sts. 3–4 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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: God of our salvation, grant your church the mercy you promised to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Help us to share the promise fulfilled in Jesus with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, so that we might work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, so that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially those that deny your lifegiving presence to all people. When wealth, power, or pride become idols that obscure your call to justice, help us to renounce them. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you, especially those we name now... *(pause)*... Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Thank you for making your home among us in Jesus Christ. As we gather with friends and families in celebration, grant us joy. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. 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.

Or VANCO MOBILE App—Download the app to set up a one-time or recurring donation. Search on "York". Available for Apple and Android.

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

#30
Green

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God.

DECEMBER 17, 2023

OFFERING

General \$ 6,042.00	HVAC \$ 179.46
Music \$ 350.00	Christmas \$ 1115.00
Facility Use \$ 40.00	

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com.

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS



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

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**
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Pastor Beth Schlegel: Phone #: 717-495-8894
Email: pastorschlegel@live.com

This Week CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday
Office Closed

Wednesday & Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Friday
Office Closed