# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

# **Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve**

December 24-25, 2023

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

The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, STS, Pastor Tim Lambert, Musician

# 

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

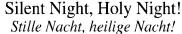
#### Welcome & Announcements

# **Prelude**

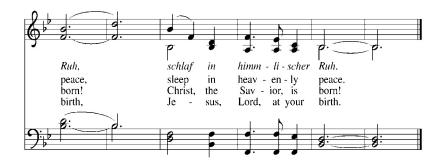
"O Holy Night" "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Light a candle as a reminder of the light of Christ come into our world in Jesus.









Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Musie: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

# 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 4 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen

P: As we gather at the manger of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us purify our souls by confessing our sins.

Silence for self-examination

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

The assembly stands.









Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

# **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.** 





# Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** 

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who 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.

# First Reading — Luke 2:1-20

# A reading from Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 1411Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

# **Carol** #60 Green



### A reading from Titus

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

# Gospel Acclamation sung to the tune, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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. I am bringing you good news of great joy for 'all the people:\* to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi- 'ah, the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:10-11)

# Holy Gospel — John 1:1-14

# P: The holy gospel according to St. John C: Glory to you, O Lord

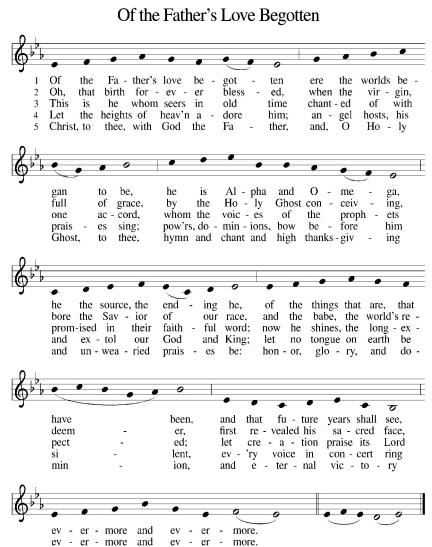
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 'in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. "He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 19 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

# The Message

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





Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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# **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: Almighty God, open the ears and hearts of your Church to hear the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth and grant us voices to share that good news of peace and salvation with all people. Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.** 

P: Open our eyes to see with wonder the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos you have created. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Lord, in your mercy

# C: Hear our prayer.

P: Open our hearts to receive your Son, the child born to us, who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring peoples, and establish peace in our world, in our families, and in our lives. Lord, in your mercy

#### C: Hear our prayer.

- P: Make us faithful in our vocations as were the shepherds in the field and surprise us with your presence. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Lord, in your mercy **C**: **Hear our prayer**.
- P: Extend Mary's loving care to all who are vulnerable. Move us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with those who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Lord, in your mercy **C**; **Hear our prayer.**
- P: Open the eyes of our faith to see the multitude of the heavenly hosts, including those who have died trusting you. Accept our thanks for the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearance of your grace and your salvation for all. Keep us strong in our faith so that on that great and glorious day of Christ's coming, we, too, might see Him face to face. Lord, in your mercy **C**; **Hear our prayer**.
- P: Pondering the mystery of 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.

# **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 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.

# Canticle of Thanksgiving

#39 Green Stz. 1,2,4

# Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# 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.

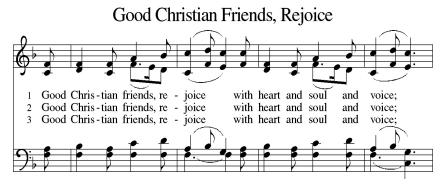
# ♣ Sending ♣

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

#### 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.**







Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News. **C: Thanks be to God.** 

# **Postlude**

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God In memory of Barbara Roach, by Donna Roach & family.

The Bulletins are given to the glory of God In memory of Samuel & Ruth Shettel, by Susan Shettel.

The Christmas Candles were given to the glory of God In memory of the Callahan & Shettel families, by Susan Shettel.

# The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God . . .



In memory of Altoona family, by Gail Bentzel.

In memory of our parents, Charlie & Mary Innerst, and Richard & Millie Geisler my sister, Sharon Blankenship, by Rick and Joan Geisler & family

In memory of our precious parents Mary Innerst & Charlie Innerst and Pat & John Miller, our grandon's dad, Brent Amspacher & brother, Wyatt

our grandon's dad, Brent Amspacner & brother, Vyyatt our sweet sister & brother, Joleen Brown and Jim Miller. by Chuck & Johnna Innerst & family.

In memory of my husband, Dennis O. Nace, by Carolyn A. Nace.

In memory of Helen & Sam Quickel and Jean & John Yates, Quickel, by their loving family.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clinton H. 'Whitie' Roderick, by their daughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rohrbaugh, by their granddaughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. *Clinton Roderick, Sr,* by their granddaughter, Annette Roderick

In memory of Brent Schlegel, by Pastor Schlegel In memory of Bill & Betty Schlegel, by Pastor Schlegel In honor of David Stoverschlegel, by Pastor Schlegel

In honor of Brad Schlegel, by Pastor Schlegel

In memory of Samuel & Ruth Shettel, by Susan Shettel

In memory of departed family and friends, by Sandy & Mearl Williams

# 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

#### **Announcement**

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the narthex.

# **DECEMBER 17, 2023**

**OFFERING** 

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

# 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 Brusan—Janice Cromer—Rich Davis—Don Gise—Shelva Gise—Bruce Harget—Cheryl Hibner—Samantha Hilk-Requests er—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

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com.

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# 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 & Tuesday
Office Closed

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

Friday
Office Closed