



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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## First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

**Welcome.** The lessons for this first Sunday after Christmas remind us that Jesus began his work to save mankind right after he was born! Together with his faithful parents, Jesus fulfilled the entirety of God's Law concerning first-born boys of Israel. His presentation in the temple as a baby foreshadowed how Jesus would take the full weight of God's Law upon himself when he hung on the cross as a man. Thank you, Jesus, for keeping the Law perfectly in our place!

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

## The Preparation



**Prelude:** “Noel” - C. d’Aquino

### **Words of Welcome**

### **Invocation, Confession and Absolution**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## The Service of the Word

**Opening Hymn** 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer,  
You wonderfully created us  
and in the incarnation of Your Son  
yet more wondrously restored our human nature.  
Grant that we may ever be alive in Him  
who made Himself to be like us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (see back cover)

**Psalms:** Psalm 111



<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,\* in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD,\* studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work,\* and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;\* the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;\* he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,\* in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*

all his precepts are trustworthy;

<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.\* His praise endures forever!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Epistle Reading:** Galatians 4:4-7 (see back cover)

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:22-40

Acclamations (sung): **Glory be to you, O Lord.  
Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed** (inside the back cover of the hymnal)

**Children's Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:** 389 Let All Together Praise Our God (v. 1-3)

**Sermon**

**Prayers** After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,  
C: **Hear our prayer.**



## Prayer Request List

(Names are placed on the list by request only.)

### *For comfort:*

Beeokie family	Death of Carol	Farley
Vaccaro family	Death of Joe	Wright
Melton/Yost families	Death of David Melton	Yost
Baker family	Death of Eleanor	Teschke

### *For those with health concerns:*

Ekaterina	Fran Bryzinski	Annette Evans	Rich Decee
Pastor John Babbitts	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Harry Tinsman	Phillip Trivett	Kay Compton
Marge Carr	Mina Ciqus	Brennan	Tom Reside
John and Sue Miller	John & Sue Bridenbough,		

### *For those with cancer:*

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jane Chmieleski	Kathy
Edward Keenan	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea (Andy) Hoteling			

### *For those serving in the armed forces:*

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)			

### *For those suffering around the world:*

War in Europe	Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision
War in Middle East	Prayers for peace and forgiveness

### *Birthdays*

Christine Dorsett	Jan 2	John Miller	Jan 5
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## Gathering of the Offering and Offertory (p. 192)

### Instrumental Offertory

**Congregational Offertory:** “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.**



## *The Service of the Sacrament*

### **Order of Holy Communion** page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right and salutary.... Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

C: *(sung)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

C: *(spoken)* **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen**

Distribution Hymn: 376 Once in Royal David's City

Post-Communion Cantic: Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace (p. 199 LSB)

**Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word,  
for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good,

C: **and His mercy endures forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving)

C: **Amen.**

**Salutation and Benedicamus** page 201

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** page 202

P: The Lord bless you...

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (v. 1-2, 5-6)

## Announcements

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "In Dulci Jublio" – J.S. Bach



## **Announcements – Week of December 31, 2023**

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week  
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00 to help.**

### **Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Joey Dunbar (Reader), Jesse Dunbar (Live-streaming), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Steve deDufour (Usher), Maryanne Reside and Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

**Sunday Bible Study.** This Sunday we will be studying the assigned Old Testament lesson for today which is Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3.

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/9WRSKD3yTRM?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Wednesday bible study this week resume this week on Wednesday, January 3, 2024! We will pick up at Acts 17. (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org))

### **Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry.** The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them in January!

**Prayer Chain.** The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

### **Service and Other**

**Mark Your Calendar!** Our Voters' Assembly is scheduled for January 28, 2024. We'd love to see everyone there to see the presentation from NJDU participants- find out what's ahead in in 2024! Details to follow...

**NOAH Potluck Secret Santa Party, coming Fri, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, noon to 2!** Sign up now on the bulletin board to attend this potluck luncheon. Bring something tasty to share, along with an unwanted new, slightly used or Special gift to exchange with others. We ask that the gift be under \$20 and it be wrapped, but without any identifying names or tags. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Shirley Yost.

**Operation Christmas Child.** As we look forward to this year’s collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For January we could use **mini spiral notebooks (need 50)**, and **6”x 9” writing tablets (need 30)**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

**Flowers.** A Flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God’s grace, or for a special occasion. The suggested donation is \$25.

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **January’s collection is paper products – paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues.** You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

**Faithfulness Report** 12/24    Attendance: TBD  
Gen Fund: \$      Mortgage: \$      Loan Angel: \$

(Weekly contributions of approx \$6,000 are needed to meet our Congregation-approved 2023 budget.)

**Website and Facebook.** Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!

**Weekly Schedule.**

TUESDAY (1/2)                    4:30pm Confirmation Class  
WEDNESDAY (1/3)                7:30pm Zoom Bible Study of Acts  
THURSDAY (1/4)                 7:00pm NJDU Planning Session  
SUNDAY (1/7)                    8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

**Other Important web links.**

NJ District LCMS                    [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod    [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)  
LCMS World Relief and Human Care    [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)  
“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast        [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

**First Sunday After Christmas**





## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### Old Testament Reading:

#### Isaiah 61:10–62:3

- <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.
- <sup>62:1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.
- <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### Epistle: Galatians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as

it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

- <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.