



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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## First Sunday after Christmas

*December 29, 2024*

### **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 unto God our Father, beseeching 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 unto the Lord.

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

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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:** 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

**Kyrie** page 186 (*sung*)

C: **Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**



**Hymn of Praise:** Gloria in Excelsis page 187 (*sung*)

P: Glory be to God on high:

**C: And on earth peace, good-will toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer;**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,**

**art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**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:** Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 (see back cover)



**Psalm:** 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 congre- | gation.

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

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,\*  
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.

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

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

<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 faith- | ful and just,\*  
all his precepts are | trustworthy;

<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and | ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*  
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 under- | standing.\*  
His praise endures for- | ever!

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

**Epistle Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17 (see back cover)

**Alleluia Verse** (sung)

**C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

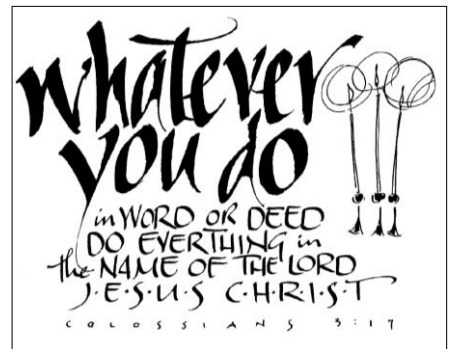
Acclamations (sung): **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.  
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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

**Children's Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:** 389 Let All Together Praise Our God

**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 those with health concerns:***

Ellie	Janice Nuneviller	Barbara	Carol Farley
Chris	Zane	Brennan	Valerie Nebbie
Beverly	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah
Ursula	John O'Neil	Sid	Nicholas Wilhelm
Kay Compton	Claire	Rose	Lolly Hoagland
Cambria	Robert Bauer	John Tarlo	Steve Hauptman
Mariah Martinez	Judy Nanni	Joe	Janis

***For those with cancer:***

Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Dick Butterfoss
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Barbara	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Anne
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Lexi Launchbaugh	Linda
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Jane Fry	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Barbara Howard	Dottie	Dave Bond	William
Sonia	Barbara	Henry J.	Logan Mattessich
Linda	Karen Radcliffe	Marci Fehlhafer	Dora

***For those with needs around the world:***

Government officials and people of our nation	Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with hurricane/drought/disaster	Prayers for provision and help
Those in need of employment	Provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	Prayers for peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision

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

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	Mike Bahney

***For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:***

For staff and families of the school

For enrollment

**Birthdays:**

Christine Dorsett Dec 23

## Gathering of the Offering and Offertory (p. 192)

**Instrumental Offertory:** “In dulci jublio” - J. Vetter

**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 Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

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

## *The Service of the Sacrament*

### Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with Thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, 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 Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh 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.**

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; grant us Thy peace. Amen**

Distribution Hymn: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,**

**for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy 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 endureth forever.**  
P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving)                                      C: **Amen.**

**Salutation and Benedicamus** page 201 (sung)

P: The Lord be with you.      C: **And with Thy spirit.**  
P: Bless we the Lord.      C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** page 202 (sung)

P: The Lord bless you...      C: **Amen, amen, amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

### **Announcements**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** “In dulci jublio” - J.S. Bach



### **TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Opening Hymn: 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) was inspired to write this hymn by the response of the shepherds to visit the Christ Child in Luke 2:15 after hearing the glorious message of the angels! It reflects the lovely “invitation of Psalm 95:” “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! Oh come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker...” Gerhardt’s biographer, Christian Bunners, said that “Singing allows something to be seen,” and that this hymn would allow Christians to come and see not only Christ in the manger, but His power to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. What joy to life our voices together as we praise the Messiah!

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns.* (2019), p. 117-120

### ***Memory Verse Challenge: Colossians 3:17***

And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.



## **Announcements – Week of December 29, 2024**

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**

**\*MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00\***

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

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Amy Van Hise (reader), Dave deDufour and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise and Lesley deDufour (Communion/coffee set-up and clean-up)

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/bIDJIXEKcC8> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

**Bible Study on Gospel of Luke.** There will be no 8:15 Bible study or Sunday School this week as we take a short break for Christmas. Join us next week when we resume our study of Luke's Gospel!

**After-Service Sermon Discussion today!** Join us after service in the fellowship hall for a lively discussion!

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our Wednesday evening Bible study is now on break until January 8 of the New Year.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

SUNDAY (1/5) 8:15 SS/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group

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

**NOAH Potluck Secret Santa Party,** coming Fri. Jan 17th, 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 contact Jim or Shirley Yost.

**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.

**The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry** is a prayerful ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort, and also to share the joy of those celebrating a marriage or the birth of a child. Blessings are prayed into the items for the recipients. These items are meant to be given away unconditionally and are NOT to be sold. Since the beginning of the ministry in 2015, we have given away a total of 384 items which include shawls, lap blankets, baby caps, and baby blankets. In addition to individuals, we have contributed lap blankets and shawls to the Disabled American Veterans Hospital; baby caps to hospitals; fidget blankets to Alzheimer patients; and red, white and blue blankets to Hospice in honor of WWII veterans. Finally, we would like to thank those of you who have contributed to this ministry for the purchase of supplies.



## Service and Other

*Thank you from the Dunbars! The Dunbar family wishes to thank the members of St. Peter for the extraordinarily generous gift we received on Christmas Day. Your love and support means so much to us! May God's grace abound in the New Year ahead!*

*Pastor Jon, Hope, Sam, Jesse, and Joey*

**January Voters Meeting.** St. Peter will hold its annual Voters meeting on **Sunday, January 19th** after the worship service. We invite and encourage all to attend! It's an important time to review the past year, discuss future plans for 2025, elect new leadership and approve a budget for implementing our goals. We'll give thanks for God's guidance and ask His blessing on all future endeavors. To God be the glory!

**Opportunity to give toward Helene Disaster Relief through NJ District.** The NJ District continues to match dollar for dollar any individual/family gift given through the District up to \$250. A designation has been set up on the District website ([njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)) where people can give online. Once you are on the website scroll down and click on the "Give Now" button. Scroll down and click on the Hurricane Helene Disaster relief icon.

**Flowers.** If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

**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 tissue, facial tissue, etc

<b>Faithfulness Report:</b> Attendance 12/22: 58/10 online	12/24: 77/9; 36	12/25: 34/8
Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 8149	Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5917	
Loan angel: \$ 325	Building fund: \$ 25	
Building fund: \$ 50		

**Website and Facebook.** Come online to check us out! 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>.

### **Other Important web links:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

NJ District LCMS [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.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

### Old Testament Reading: Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

<sup>11</sup>"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

### Epistle: Colossians 3:12–17

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### 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.