



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.
(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org
Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
pastor@stpeternj.org
secretary@stpeternj.org
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2025

Welcome! On this most holy day we rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name. The greatest gift of all is unwrapped for us as we worship. In song and story, in Word and Sacrament, we ponder anew the impact of the birth of Jesus on our lives, our communities, and our world. Joy to the world - the Lord is come!

A special welcome to all our visitors! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). 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.



Prelude: "Noel" - C. d'Aquin

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

P: To us a Child is born,

C: to us a Son is given,

P: and the government will be upon His shoulders

**C: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**



Opening Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Psalm 96



¹ Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;*
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!

² Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;*
tell of his salvation from | day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the | nations,*
his marvelous works among all
the | peoples!

⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be
praised;*
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are
worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.

⁶ Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
strength and beauty are in his
sanctu- | ary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of
the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and
strength!

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his
name;*

I bring an offering, and come in- | to
his courts!

C: And also with you.

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor
of | holiness;*
tremble before him, | all the earth!

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD
reigns! Yes, the world is established; it
shall nev- | er be moved;*
he will judge the peoples with | equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth
rejoice;*
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹² let the field exult, and every- | thing
in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest
sing for joy ¹³before the LORD, | for he
comes,*
for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world
in | righteousness,*
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.

**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.**

P: Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of your promise of redemption from sin. We welcome you, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: 546 O Jesus so Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,
"I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."



L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Sermon Hymn: 373 See Amid the Winter's Snow

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory

“In Dulci Jubilo” - J.G. Walther

Order of Holy Communion

Invitation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times...
Therefore with angels and archangels... evermore praising you
and singing:

(sung to the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of host by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!**

Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution

Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 376 Once in Royal David's City

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Almighty Father, in the Incarnation of your Son you began the work of our deliverance from sin and death. Through the grace of this Holy Sacrament, strengthen us in spirit and renew in us the New Birth we have through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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

Postlude

