

**Advent 4 (December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022)**  
**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)**  
**1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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## Opening Hymn: 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

**P** In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,\*  
and in his | word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,\*  
more than watchmen for the | morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,\*  
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

And he will redeem | Israel\*  
from all his in- | iquities.

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.

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

## Kyrie

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

LSB 204

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 1:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 1:18–25*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**Sermon**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

**P** Lord God, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your

Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, preserve Your apostolic Gospel and its ministers. Cause the name and the resurrection of Christ Jesus to be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us who are called to belong to Him, that the obedience of faith may be brought about in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, it is Your will that we live chaste and decent lives in all that we say and do. Preserve all couples who are engaged to be married in faithfulness and honor, that they may come to their wedding day without fear, shame or disgrace. Since Christ is Immanuel, who saves His people from their sins, clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Jesus, in which all can stand before You cleansed and confident of Your blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, You named Your Son "Jesus" because He was born to save us from our sins. Give us repentant hearts. Do not let us bow to temptation or abuse His name by seeking our own way, but lead us to confess our sins and rejoice in His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need especially:

Charlie Crosby

Kay Brown (Sister of Dave and Lynn Matthews) for strength as she receives therapy

Helene Hegerfeld (Mother of Brenda Scherer)

Ron Franz for strength and healing

Lynn and Lori Matthews

Troy Stults (Son of Andy and Brenda Wolf)

Eldora Fuelling

Andy Buuck (Nephew of Suzann Rekeweg)

Shirley Buuck (sister-in-law- to Suzann Rekeweg) for strength and healing

Larry Hockemeyer (Father of Lori Conrad)

Cheryl Caffee

Paul Gunsett

Lori Sprunger who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer

Herb and Sharon Banning

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly Lord and ruler of the house of Israel. With the Holy Spirit, You spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and gave the law in terror to test Your ancient people, that the fear of You would be before them. As Moses stretched out his arm at Your Word to bring Israel out of bondage, and as he stood in the breach against Your wrath, so You have given Christ to

redeem us with His arms outstretched on the wood of the cross. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Preface

LSB 208

**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 right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

*LSB 210*

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
    You take the sin of the world away;  
    O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
        Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
  
2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
    You take the sin of the world away;  
    Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
        And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

### Distribution

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

*Stand*

### Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 211*

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
    Depart in heav'nly peace,  
    For I have seen the glory  
        Of Your redeeming grace:  
    A light to lead the Gentiles  
        Unto Your holy hill,

**The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **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  $\text{\tfrac{+}{\square}}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### **Hymn to Depart: 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

#### **In His Service Today:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

**Liturgist:** The Sem. Michael Speckhard

**Organist:** Mrs. Jackie Sanderson

**Deacons:** Bruce Scherer (Head), Joe Werling, Matt Braun, Fred M. Fuelling

**Elders:** John Fuelling (Head), Andy Wolf, Rod Busick, Jim Fuelling

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERINGS:** Home Purpose- \$4,850.00; Missions- \$50.00; Building Fund- \$340.00; Hall Rental- \$200.00; Memorials- \$1,145.00; Total Offerings- \$6,585.00; SPI- \$170.00.

**\*NOTE: Needed each week to meet the ministry needs of St. Peter: \$6,500.00.\***

**SPECIAL NOTE:** St. Peter's Mission budget obligation for 2022 is \$11,000.00. We have met our Mission budget goal for 2022 with surplus going to SPI. Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission & ministry of St. Peter.

**RESULTS FROM THE DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> VOTERS ASSEMBLY ELECTION:**

- President (1): Dave Bischoff
- Elder (2): Andy Wolf, John Fuelling
- Deacon (2): Louie Fuelling, Matt Rogusz
- Trustee (2): Sam Braun, Barry Scherer
- Recording Secretary (1): Lori Conrad
- Treasurer (1): Marjeana Lemler
- School Board (1): Kyle Bischoff

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP NEW THEME:** During the months of November and December we will be collecting “Baking” items for the Seminary Food Co-op. Suggestions are but not limited to: plastic wrap, parchment paper, foil, cake mixes, brownie mixes, cupcake wrappers, icing, flour, sugar-white, brown, powdered, spices, non-stick spray, oil, corn starch. All donations are appreciated and can be placed in the bag at Church to be delivered to the Seminary.

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	-----	Bible Study/Sunday School
	3:00 pm	SPI Christmas Program (@ SPI Gym)
WEDNESDAY	10:00 am	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Mid-Week Service
SATURDAY	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion for Christmas Day
	-----	Bible Study/Sunday School

**Additional Christmas Worship Opportunities, 2022**

**Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm**

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm

Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

**Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 25, 9:00 am**

Divine Service of Holy Communion for Christmas Day,  
Festival of Our Lord’s Nativity

**Saturday, December 31, 7:00 pm**

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

## Looking Ahead to Next Week

### Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup>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.”  
<sup>8</sup>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.  
<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
    you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup>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.

### Epistle

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>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”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,  
“He makes his angels winds,  
    and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,  
<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1-18*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

### 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,  
 all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scand - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

Now pro - claim Mes si - ah's birth.  
 Yon der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;

Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref. 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain