

**Advent 2 (December 10th, 2023)
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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343 Prepare the Royal Highway

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

Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.
You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*
it took deep root and | filled the land.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!
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.
Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Kyrie

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose

sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon

Offering

Stand

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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That the Lord's face would shine on us, that we may be saved; and that Christ would lead us in straight paths as He once led Joseph like a flock, bringing us out of the bondage of our sins and planting us securely in His eternal promises, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For diligent and faithful pastors, that like John the Forerunner, they would preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins and herald the Messiah, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For us and our fellow citizens, that God would preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men who come and go like grass before His breath; for our nation, that God would give rulers who will rule after His good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life; and for godly quietness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the sick and sorrowing, that the Shepherd of Israel would give ear to their need including:
- Kay Brown (Sister of Dave and Lynn Matthews) for strength as she receives therapy
 - Bob Hegerfeld
 - Ron Franz for strength and healing
 - Lynn and Lori Matthews
 - Troy Stults (Son of Andy and Brenda Wolf)
 - Eldora Fuelling
 - Cheryl Caffee
 - Shelly Gerke (Wife of Troy Gerke)
 - Jim Thieme

and for healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry out to God, that they may find comfort in His enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Lord's patience and His Spirit, that when we have strayed from His commandments we may be drawn back to Him in repentance, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In the memory of the saints before us who rest in the Lord's presence, and for the Church on earth awaiting the coming of Christ, that God would preserve us both until He gathers us to Himself in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart: 331 The Advent of Our King

In His Service Today:

Preacher: The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

Liturgist: The Sem. Adam Thiel

Organist: Mrs. Jackie Sanderson

Deacons: Matt Braun (Head), Fred M. Fuelling, Louie Fuelling

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS: Currently unavailable; will be included next week. Thanks!

NOTE: Needed each week to meet the ministry needs of St. Peter: \$5,700.00.



You may also donate your offerings online by scanning the QR code with your phone.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER: Our Missions budget of \$11,000.00 has received \$4,760.00 as of the end of October. We have 2 months to raise \$6,240.00.

Elections for the 2024 Council:

Vice-President: Duane Franz (uncontested)

Elders: Fred D. Fuelling (Head 2025), Steve Fuelling (2 positions; uncontested)

Deacons: Nathan Scherer (Head 2024), Joseph Werling (Head 2025), Dan DeLong (3 positions; uncontested)

Trustees: Vern Witte (Head 2025), Greg Fuelling (2 positions; uncontested)

School Board (1): Fred M. Fuelling (over Dane Fuelling)

Financial Secretary: Josh Franz (uncontested)

ACCEPTED BIDS:

Janitor: Jana Neher (\$300/month); Uncontested; Current rate was \$300/month

Groundskeeper: Chris Neher (\$400/month plus supplies and gas); Uncontested; Current rate was \$400/month plus supplies and gas

Secretary: Amber Shaffer (\$300/month) over Jen Fuelling (\$400/month); Current rate was \$400/month

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY: Thank you for allowing me to serve the congregation since July 2012. I have been privileged to raise my children here as my helpers, allowing them to help me with the simpler tasks like folding bulletins and newsletters, stamping newsletters, filling the copier with paper, and changing or pulling numbers for the sanctuary. This job was a blessing to our family. I am thankful I could help St. Peter with the secretarial duties and helping advance some of the technology. I am sad to leave this position, but I am thankful for the past 11 years. My last day as St. Peter secretary will be December 31, 2023.

-Jen Fuelling

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the Narthex.

CHURCH CHOIR: The adult choir will rehearse in the church balcony every Wednesday, starting promptly at 7:30 pm. Please join us as we prepare music for the Festivals of the Church year!

SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP THEME for DECEMBER - "COMFORT FOOD": During the month of December we will be collecting COMFORT FOOD items. These items will be delivered to the Seminary the first of January. Some suggestions are but not limited to: pasta (all shapes), noodles, rice, chili mix, sloppy joe sauce, taco seasoning, refried beans, beans(black, kidney, etc), canned tomatoes, taco shells, mac and cheese dinners, canned meats(tuna, beef, chicken). Other items that are always in demand are breakfast cereal (excluding Chex). All your donations are greatly appreciated and are a great benefit to the students and their families. Many report that 75-85% of their grocery needs are met at the Co-Op which relies solely on donations from individuals, congregations and organizations. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. Thank you for all your donations!

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF DECEMBER 10th, 2023

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service
	-----	Bible Study
	1:00 pm	Christmas Committee Decorating Church
WEDNESDAY	5:30pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	7:30 pm	Church Choir meets in St. Peter balcony
THURSDAY	9:00 am	Quilting
	9:30am	Pastor's Bible Study at Bingen
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	-----	Bible Study

Looking Ahead to Next Week: Advent 3

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

⁸For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.
¹⁰I 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.
¹¹For 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.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Introit

Show us your steadfast love, | O Lord,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,*

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the Lord will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

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.

Show us your steadfast love, | O Lord,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Additional Christmas Worship Opportunities, 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25, 9:00 am

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

Sunday, December 31, 7:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion