

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
 First Sunday of Christmas
 January 1, 2023, 10:30
 Service of Holy Communion

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Good Christian Friends"

288

1. **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
 ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
2. **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
3. **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:
 now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Gracious, generous God, as we continue in this Christmas season,
we are transfixed by the birth story of Jesus, your son.

We looked for a warrior;

you sent a baby.

We looked for royalty;

you were born to peasants.

We looked for power;

you showed us meekness.

We looked among rulers and politicians;

you were found among cattle and shepherds.

We looked for military victory;

you gave us resurrection.

We looked for riches;

you gave us selflessness.

We looked for a king;

you gave us a king who served.

As we worship Jesus, the humble hero of your redemption story, may we make his story our story,

seeking peace, embracing vulnerability, humbling ourselves, looking for glory in lowly places.

Teach us to follow in Jesus' footsteps,

caring for those in need, treating others with gentleness and compassion, and sharing the gifts that God has given us.

May we grow ever more like Jesus, and live in the light of His presence and example.

Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. O Lord God,

you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his

mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ann Marshall

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The First Noel"

#300

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten,
not made, of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church,
 the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for
 whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING SONG

"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"

#531

1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
 The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.
 Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
 Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
 Take your place at the table of the King.
 The feast is ready to begin;
 the feast is ready to begin.

2. **Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine.
Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.**

3. **The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord.
Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of abundance,
**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the
angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all
the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the
Word made flesh. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...
**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

"What Feast of Love"

#487

1. **What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

2. What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!
3. What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

#754

1. Jesus, the very thought of you fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view and rest within your light.
2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!
3. O Hope of ev’ry contrite soul, O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
4. O Jesus, be our joy today; help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say: “Come, share my home above.”

TABLE BLESSING

At the conclusion: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion: Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion: Amen.

SENDING SONG

“How Sweet the Name”

#620

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart’s unrest;
‘tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.
3. Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
my never failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.
4. By thee my prayers acceptance gain although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain, and I am owned a child.
5. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my prophet, priest, and king,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.
6. How weak the effort of my heart how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art, I’ll praise thee as I ought.
7. Till then I would thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death!

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE