

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2020
Service of Holy Communion**

PRELUDE**GATHERING****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God of goodness and loving kindness,

we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us. Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made know to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Angels We have Heard on High”

#289

1. **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**
2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**
3. **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing:
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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.

Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.**

He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

**He hurls down hail like crumbs
who can stand before his cold?**

He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

#295

1. **Of the Father's love begotten
ere the world began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**
2. **Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**
3. **This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected;
let creations praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.**

4. **Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing'
pow'rs dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.**
5. **Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

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

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"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!

TABLE BLESSING *At the conclusion: Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *At the conclusion: Amen*

SENDING

BENEDICTION *At the conclusion: Amen.*

SENDING SONG *"The Bells of Christmas"* #298

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more;
 the heav'nly guest is at the door.
 He comes to earthly dwellings still
 with new year gifts of peace, good will.
2. This world, though wide and far outspread,
 could scarcely find for you a bed.
 Your cradle was a manger stall,
 no pearl no silk no kingly hall.
3. Now let us go with quiet mind,
 the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
 to gaze on him who gladdens them
 the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.
4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
 to keep our Christmas with our king,
 until our song, from loving souls,
 like rushing mighty water rolls.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE