

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
 January 2, 2022  
 Service of Holy Communion

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**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace. (silence) Holy God,  
**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. †In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283

1. **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 come and behold him, born the king of angels:  
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
2. **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
 born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
 Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!  
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God in the highest:  
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
4. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**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 servant.**

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.

**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 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

*"O Word of God Incarnate"*

#514

1. **O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**
2. **The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;  
And still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.**

3. **Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold to bear before the nations your true light, as of old; oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.**

### **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 heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****MEAL****OFFERING SONG**

*"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"*

#681

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
 but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,  
 who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
 the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.  
 All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.  
 We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.
2. We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,  
 the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
 No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,  
 but what you most would treasure our humble, thankful hearts.  
 All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.  
 We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together, Gracious God,  
**your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and  
 these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table  
 and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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***"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"*

#510

1. **Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**
2. **Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love out pouring.**
3. **Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

*"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.**

**TABLE BLESSING***At the conclusion: Amen***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***At the conclusion: Amen***SENDING****BENEDICTION***At the conclusion: Amen.*

**SENDING SONG***"Let All Together Praise Our God"*

#287

1. Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;  
today God opens heav'n again and sends the only son,  
and sends the only Son.
2. From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small,  
and lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall,  
a manger in a stall.
3. O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might;  
a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light,  
who clothed the sky with light.
4. Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a lullaby,  
while angels, hailing David's heir, your glory magnify,  
your glory magnify.
5. A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood,  
and in return give us to share the shining realm of God,  
the shining realm of God.
6. Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise;  
the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise,  
to God let praises rise!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**