

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
 1st Sunday of Advent
 November 28, 2021, 10:30
 Service of Holy Communion

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed one, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244

1. **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
 the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
 The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
 Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
2. **The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
 go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
 The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
 Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
3. **The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
 shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
 Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
 in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**
4. **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, O Sun so longed for, e'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
 the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

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.

ADVENT LITANY

Holy God, we enter into the Advent season, turning our attention to you. We acknowledge the darkness that is within us, and that permeates the world.

Give us light in the darkness.

We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity is afflicted, which seems at times to overwhelm us.

Give us compassion and endurance.

We consider the mystery of your ways, that you chose to send our Savior as a child, who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

Give us hope in Jesus Christ.

We rejoice that Jesus' coming brings hope for suffering people, hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world, hope for new life and resurrection.

Give us hope to see Christ.

Grant, O God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

Give us hope as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

In Christ all things are made new, and we look forward to the day our hope is fulfilled, each heart reconciled, the work of Christ completed in all the earth.

Give us light, give us compassion, give us hope; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* #240

1. Light one candle to watch for messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

ADVENT PRAYER**WORD****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In

those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10 (8:00 am)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30 only)

"Advent Alleluia"

Arr. Jay Althouse

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Phil Gardner

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Earth is Hopeful”

#266

1. **All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task;
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.**
2. **People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;
she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
3. **Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
4. **We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

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

God of new life, you come among us in the paces we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

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.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. 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

"Lamb of God"

p. 135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"My Lord What a Morning"

#438

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what morning;

oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what morning;

oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

#247

1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free, o God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

TABLE BLESSING

At the conclusion: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion: Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Fling Wide the Door"

#259

1. Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.
2. He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.

3. **Oh, happy towns and blessed lands
that live by their true king's commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his.
Creator of the world, our only strength for good.**
4. **Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ:
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; hope in the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE