

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion for 10:30
Dec. 8, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent
Welcome – Pastor Cathy Schibler**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

~Silence for Reflection~

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have
trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day is near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice”

#246

1. **Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!”**
2. **Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth’s bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.**
3. **See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv’n;**
4. **So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.**
5. **Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!**

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.

KYRIE (p. 184)

Kyrie, eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie, eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie, eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie, eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor, that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie, eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie, eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie, eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie, eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie, eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie, eleison, ev'ry day.

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*"The King Shall Come"
Verses 1 and 3*

#260

1. **The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.**
3. **Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and

purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

SENIOR CHOIR (10:30)

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words for eternal life.

Alleluia. - - - Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. - - - Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke in the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Cathy Schibler

HYMN OF THE DAY*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

#264

1. **Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!**
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story;
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
2. **God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king!**
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
3. **Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!**
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
4. **His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.**
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

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 worshipped 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

(brief silence)

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

Savior of the nations, come and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL**OFFERING SONG***"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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for those gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

At the conclusion: **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

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. Lamb of God.

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

#241

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
 Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
 Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
 to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
 I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
 A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
 that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.
3. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
 Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
 Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
 in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.
4. Rejoice, then, you sadhearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
 who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
 All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
 send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

“He Came Down”

#253

1. He came down that we may have love;
 He came down that we may have love;
 He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
2. He came down that we may have light;
 He came down that we may have light;
 He came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.
3. He came down that we may have peace;
 He came down that we may have peace;
 He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.
4. He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

TABLE BLESSING *At the conclusion: Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *At the conclusion: Amen.*

SENDING

BENEDICTION *At the conclusion: Amen.*

SENDING SONG *"Hark, the Glad Sound"* #239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held,
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE