



# St. Peter Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
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**To Our Guests and Visitors**  
We welcome all our friends in Christ who have come to worship with us. If you are a guest, please feel at home with us, sign our guest register, and worship with us whenever you are able. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a part of our church family.

**Communion Statement**  
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, guests who are not confirmed members of a LCMS congregation and have not previously communed at this altar, are asked to first speak with our pastor.  
If you are unable to do so before the service, it is out of Christian love and care for your souls that we ask you to refrain from communing this morning.  
For further study, please see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.  
If you desire to receive a blessing for yourself or your children, please approach during communion, cross your arms over your chest and bow your head as you kneel at the altar rail.

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 5, 2014

*Upon entering the Sanctuary, please turn off cell phones, pagers, etc. Use the time as a quiet time for personal reflection and meditation in preparation for worship. This is a time for anyone to join in praying for the service, and for the church in general*

# You're Welcome!

## A Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanksgiving Gathering.....  
melody: "We Praise You, O God"

**We gather together to seek the Lord's favor,  
For daily we savor God's goodness divine.  
Together confessing, we seek His great blessing  
And find an honored place at His table to dine.**

*L: Lift up your voices, O people; sing together for joy.*  
**C: Break forth together in rejoicing.**  
*L: Witness what the Lord has done, the Lord who promises and saves.*

**We gather together with songs of thanksgiving.  
To God ever-living our anthems we raise.  
With praises unending let songs be ascending  
With hearts and lives united to show forth our praise.**

*L: Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble.*  
**C: Gather to me my faithful ones, says the Lord, those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.**  
*L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.*

**We gather together, abundantly gifted.  
Our voices uplifted ring sweet in God's ear.  
O blest congregation, with high adoration  
Come now to offer thanks; in God's temple appear.**

*L: I will surely gather all of you, says the Lord.*  
**C: I will set you together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture.**  
*L: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him.*

**We gather together, most firmly believing.  
From God's hand receiving, wherever we go  
Our Shepherd beside us, to lead us and guide us,  
A table set before us, our cups overflow.**

The Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 51:3-5

*Psalmody, Psalm 73:23-28*

Hymn tune "Rock of Ages"

**Blest Redeemer, strong and dear,  
Let me know You ever near!  
Whom have I in heav'n but You?  
Naught I want on earth but You.  
Let me know You ever near,  
Great Redeemer, strong and dear!**

*L: Lord, I am always close to You; You hold me by the hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward You will receive me with honor. My flesh and heart may fail, but God is my heart's strength and my portion forever. Those who are far away from You will perish; this is why I choose You as my protector.*

*Epistle Reading ... Romans 15:4-7*

The Gospel Celebration ..... "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

**Today Your mercy calls us to wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today.**

**Today Your gate is open, and all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.**

*Luke 15:11-24*

**Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us, how often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, it is our Father's home.**

The Homily

A Creedal Hymn ..... "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**Children of God, come, our Father almighty confessing,  
Maker of heaven and earth, endless glory possessing.  
Who, by His might, shattered the darkness with light,  
Filling all things with His blessing.**

**Proclaim our faith in God's Son, our Redeemer, Christ Jesus,  
Son of the virgin. His death from all trespasses frees us.  
Raised from the grave, He lives, His people to save,  
From our own graves to release us.**

**Christ reigns on high! On His people the Spirit, descending,  
Binds with forgiveness the saints in one holy befriending,  
By whom is heard God's sure, unbreakable Word,  
Promise of life without ending.**

Prayers and Offering

Hymn ..... "Now Thank We All Our God"

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all harm in this world and the next**

*Holy Communion ..... LSB 208 – 212*

*Communion Hymn #'s 789, 801, 618, 761*

*Benediction ..... from Ephesians 1*

P: *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,*

**C: just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love.**

P: *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.*

**C: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.**

P: *In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Closing Hymn ..... "Old Hundredth"*

**You we adore, eternal Lord!  
We praise Your name with one accord;  
Your saints, who here your goodness view,  
Through all the world give thanks to You.**

**To You aloud all angels cry,  
The heav'ns and all the pow'rs on high;  
You--Holy, Holy, Holy King,  
Lord God of hosts--they ever sing!**

**From day to day, O Lord, we too  
Highly exalt and honor You;  
Your name we worship and adore,  
World without end, forevermore!**