



## 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.

*Upon entering the Sanctuary, please turn off cell phones, pagers, etc. and 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.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2012

**Verse for mediation: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

**(Matthew 1:23a)**

*We gather outside the church doors and will process into the building as instructed.*

### OPENING OF THE DOORS

P: Let the doors of this church be opened for the preaching of the saving Word of God in accordance with the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the administration of the holy Sacraments according to the institution of Christ, and for

offering to God the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The minister, using the base of the processional cross, marks the threshold with the sign of the cross as he says:*

P: Peace be to this house and to all who enter here in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn

***“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”***

***Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!***

***Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;***

***Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ the Lord!***

***Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,***

***Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!***

***Glory to God In the highest:***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ the Lord.***

***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;***

***Jesus, to Thee be glory given!***

***Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Oh, come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ the Lord.***

## BLESSING OF THE BUILDING

P: Beloved in the Lord, Christ Jesus is present wherever His holy Word is taught purely and the holy Sacraments are administered according to His institution. As the Lord said through Moses, "In every place where I cause My name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you." Exodus 20:24b

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, though You are not contained in houses built by human hands, we pray that You will be pleased to dwell with us here and to make known to us Your glory.

**C: Be present in this place where we are gathered to receive Your forgiveness, hear Your holy Word, and praise Your holy name. Graciously hear the prayers we will offer to You; bless the marriages to be solemnized; comfort those who will mourn; and let harmony and peace rest upon all in this place.**

P: Bring us at last to the heavenly Jerusalem, where the Lamb is the temple, that we may unite with all the saints and angels in His praise; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*While saying the blessing, the minister makes the sign of the cross toward each of the four corners of the church building.*

P: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this church building.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
(Hebrews 10:22)

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: Who made heaven and earth. (sung)** (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (sung)** (Psalm 32:5)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. (Mark 16:16; John 1:12)

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING OF THE BAPTISMAL FONT

P: Our Lord Jesus commanded Baptism, saying to His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” The holy Apostles of the Lord have written: “The promise is for you and for your children,” and “Baptism now saves you.”

(Matthew 28:19-20a; Acts 2:39a; 1 Peter 3:21)

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God,

C: **according to Your great mercy You preserved Noah and his family through the flood and led Your people Israel through the waters of the Red Sea. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.**

P: Bless this baptismal font (and bowl) that those who are here given new birth by water and the Spirit may receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this baptismal font and bowl and all who are regenerated here by water and the Word.

C: **Amen.**

**THE KYRIE** (Mark 10:47) **(sung)**

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**HYMN** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing over the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?*

*Why your joyous strains prolong?*

*What the gladsome tidings be*

*Which inspire your heavenly song?*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*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.*

#### **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in this house of worship, and ask Your ongoing blessing upon these who gather here. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

#### **BLESSING OF THE LECTERN**

P: In the reading of the Holy Scriptures we hear God speaking His Word of salvation to us. This Word is “a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path.” Psalm 119:105

Let us pray: Almighty God,

**C: Your own dear Son went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read Your Word. Purify the lips of those who read the Scriptures here, and bless this lectern, that from it we may hear Your gracious Word of life;**

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this lectern.

**C: Amen.**

#### **BLESSING OF PARAMENTS AND ALTAR LINENS**

P: The psalmist declares, “The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.” “Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” Psalm 93:1; 96:6

Let us pray.

O Lord God Almighty, You instructed Moses Your servant to make hangings and fine linens for use in Your tabernacle. We implore You to sanctify these paraments for the adornment of Your Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these paraments.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING** Micah 5:2-5a

**THE EPISTLE READING** Hebrews 10:5-10

#### **THE GOSPEL READING**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.** (Sung)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.** (Sung)

#### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## BLESSING OF THE PULPIT

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ preached and taught repentance and the forgiveness of sins, and after His resurrection sent His disciples out, saying: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

P: Let us pray. O Lord God,

C: **Your Son stepped into Simon Peter's boat and from it taught the crowds, thus making it a pulpit. Bless this pulpit that from it Your saving and merciful Word may be proclaimed and many may be brought to eternal salvation;**

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this pulpit.

C: **Amen.**

## SERMON HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds 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.*

*Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.*

*This is He whom Heaven-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.*

*Now He shines, the Long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore*

## SERMON

## OFFERTORY

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## OFFERING

### BLESSING OF THE ALTAR

P: At the altar we receive the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the altar of the cross and offer to God our sacrifice of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving as the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, "Everyone who loves the name of the Lord and holds fast My covenant, their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:6-7

P: Let us pray. O God,

**C: You delighted in the praises of Your faithful servants Abel, Noah, and Abraham and accepted the sacrifices offered on their altars. Look upon us and graciously accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer at this altar.**

P: Grant that the body and blood of Christ Jesus, once offered on the altar of the cross as the full and only atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world and given us on this altar to eat and drink, nourish and strengthen us until at last we gather at the heavenly banquet to feast with the Lamb and all His saints; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The presiding minister makes the sign of the cross at the four corners of the altar and at the center as he says:*

P: The merciful Lord be present at this altar to † pardon, † strengthen, † bless, † feed, and † hear His people.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord

## HYMN "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Stand

P: O God our Father, Creator of heaven and earth, by whose favor we have added to this house, O Jesus Christ, The Son of the living God, our Lord and Savior, O Holy Spirit, source of light and life, our Sanctifier and Comforter:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: To the ministry of Your saving Word, to the administration of the Sacraments, and to the worship and exaltation of You our one and only God:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: To the conversion and reclaiming of Your people on earth, to the instruction, guidance, and up-building of the saints, to the comfort of those who mourn, to the strengthening of the tempted, and to the saving of the lost:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: As a house of Prayer for all who call upon Your Name and worship You in Spirit and in truth:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: As a place where the lambs of the flock of Christ may be fed, where little children may increase in wisdom and favor with God and man, where the young may be taught to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, where a generation may grow up fit for citizenship on earth and in Heaven:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: As a place from which the kingdom of God may be extended in this community, in this nation, in this world:

**C: THIS DAY WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH TO YOU!**

P: To the proclamation of Your Holy Word and for the up-building of Your people:

**C: WE DEDICATE THIS PULPIT AND LECTERN!**

P: To perform the sacred duty of baptizing all nations for the remission of sins and to hold the water of Holy Baptism:

**C: WE DEDICATE THIS BAPTISMAL FONT!**

P: Your altar is adorned with symbolic Paraments and cloths for beauty and for the purpose of Liturgical color and message:

**C: WE DEDICATE THESE PARAMENTS TO YOU!**

P: As the visible symbol of Your invisible presence, where we address our prayers to You and as the table where we consecrate the elements in our Holy Supper:

**C: WE DEDICATE THIS ALTAR!**

P: For the education of our youth, nursery care of our children, preparations for worship and for the fellowship of our people:

**C: WE DEDICATE OUR CLASSROOMS TO YOU!**

P: For a place of counseling and study of the Word of God:

**C: WE DEDICATE THE NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR OUR PASTOR TO YOU!**

P: For furnishings used for worship:

**C: WE DEDICATE THESE PEWS TO YOU!**

P: Together as Members and Friends of St. Peter Lutheran Church we dedicate by saying...

**C: We now, the members of St. Peter Lutheran Church Congregation, do this day dedicate this new facility, with all of its furnishings and appointments, in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to His glory, honor and service to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**THE TRIPLE AMEN** (Sung)

**CLOSING HYMN** "My Soul Rejoices"

*My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior Has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing  
God, who is solely Mighty and holy—  
Oh, sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—  
Oh, sing the greatness of God the Lord!*

*His arm now baring, His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted; The meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—  
Oh, sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token All that was spoken  
To Abr'am's offspring God is fulfilling—  
Oh, sing the greatness of God the Lord!*