

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
December 31, 2012 ~ New Year's Eve

**AS WE GATHER**

Almighty Father, eternal God, You have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives You bless us with Your love. Grant that in this new year we may know Your presence, see Your love at work, and live in the light of that event which gives us joy forever--the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ PREPARATION +

**GREETING**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: A New Year demands a New Beginning.

People: **Can we really begin anew? So much time has passed.**

Pastor: God spoke through Ezekiel: "I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit."

People: **How can we rid ourselves of all offenses and get this new heart and spirit?**

Pastor: Come before God in Jesus' name. Confess your sin and ask forgiveness that you might take part in His new covenant of forgiveness.

*(A brief silence is kept.)*

People: **Merciful Father, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have misused our time and talents and treasures. We seek a NEW beginning by the power of Your Spirit. Forgive us in the name and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce to you the full and free forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The record of your lives is wiped clean and you are renewed in this New Year.

People: **Sing to the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things! Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**     *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: We praise and thank You, O God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom You have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades. Night has fallen, and the year's allotted span draws to a close. The daylight which You created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of Your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us. We praise You and glorify You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; through Him be glory, honor, and power to You in the Holy Spirit now and always and forever and ever.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" #733

*Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.*

READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 "For everything there is a season."

*Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.*

READING 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2 "The acceptable time."

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Second chapter.

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

GOSPEL Luke 2:21 He was called Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen**

## SERMON

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Hear us, O God, as we bring the whole world of people into the fellowship of our prayers.

(Moment of silence)

Build up your Church in strength,

**People: so that the good tidings of great joy may be spread far and wide.**

Pastor: We pray for all nations,

**People: that in the coming year they may be drawn into closer bonds of mutual honor and service.**

Pastor: We pray for our beloved land,

**People: that those in leadership will advance the cause of peace and unity and justice among us.**

Pastor: We pray for our congregation,

**People: that we seek to fulfill your ministry among us and through us.**

Pastor: Remember in mercy those who end the year under any shadow of affliction, especially . . . . Give them comfort and peace,

**People: in Jesus Christ their Savior. Amen.**

### OFFERING

+ SACRAMENT +



## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

(Please see the Communion Statement on Page 6)

### Preface

P The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**

P Our Father ... but deliver us from evil.

☐ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**The Words of Our Lord and the Pax Domini** *(Peace of the Lord)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☐ A - men.

**Agnus Dei** *(Lamb of God)*

☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*The Congregation is seated.*

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn(s)** Page 744, 397, 379, 809

*The Congregation stands.*

**Nunc Dimittis: The Song of Simeon** *(Luke 2:29-32)*

☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

**Thanksgiving**

P O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

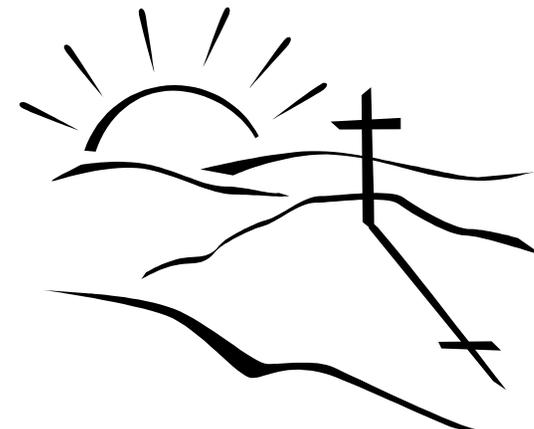
*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

+ + +



## **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.

### **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.

