



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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Advent 
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

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 LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR A REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST IN THE CHURCH YEAR

November 24, 2013

Verse for meditation: Alleluia. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Alleluia. (Luke 23:43)

On this last Sunday in the church year, we will remember the greatness of our God by taking a look at the lessons of the Church Year. The order of Divine Service for today follows the church year. Throughout the service, we will receive God's blessings through the Word. We will sing some of the most significant hymns of each season, read a Scripture Lesson pertaining to each, and speak together the sentence for the season.

The Christian Church year has developed over the centuries into a powerful tool to reiterate the story of our salvation. As we travel through the calendar year we are reminded by the church year of all the stories and teachings of the Bible.

The Church Year is divided into eight seasons (including Holy Week). Each season has a different underlying theme or remembers a different event concerning Christ. Christmas and Easter are the two most publicly known seasons, but there is more we celebrate about Christ throughout the year. Let us celebrate them today!

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 v.1, 3, 5, 7

INVOCATION *(The invocation is our beginning in God's name.)*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. During this time we ready ourselves for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, first in the waiting to celebrate His birth, and second in His return. We remember how all the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled through Jesus' birth, life, and death, while also knowing that He promises to come again.

SENTENCE FOR ADVENT

Hallelujah! Remember, O Lord, Thy tender mercies: for they have been ever of old. Hallelujah!



SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During this time we joyfully celebrate His humble birth in a stable. It was then that Jesus became fully human and began to live a perfect life in order to save all mankind from sin, and eternal death.

INTROIT *(The introit marks our coming into Christ's presence.)*

Let all the earth fear the Lord;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,

who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

Lift up your hands to the holy place **and bless the Lord!**

May the Lord bless you from Zion, **He who made heaven and earth!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen!

Let all the earth fear the Lord;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

SENTENCE FOR CHRISTMAS

Hallelujah! Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the Lord: for He has made known His salvation. Hallelujah!



The Epiphany of Our Lord

This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Epiphany means manifestation or revelation. This season remembers God revealing his salvation to us in through Jesus, who is God made man. It includes not only the baptism, and transfiguration of our Lord, but also the visit of the magi from the east who brought Baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Our Confession of the True Revealed God and His Salvation)

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 on 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.**

SENTENCE FOR EPIPHANY

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord all you nations, and laud Him all you people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Hallelujah!

Christ's Passion

We are saved through Christ's
perfect life and innocent death.

HYMN "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" LSB 440 v.1, 2, 6

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Lent is the time of year when we focus on the upcoming death of Jesus. We sorrowfully consider how our sins caused Jesus, who was completely innocent and lived a perfect life, to suffer and die. Christ's perfect life and death are our salvation!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

(our necessary weekly Lenten act)

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.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P We pray...

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C **Amen.**

SENTENCE FOR LENT

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.



HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" LSB 442 v.1, 4-5

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 53:4-12

Surely he has was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Holy Week includes all of the events leading up to, and including, Jesus death. Palm Sunday marks the day when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He was greeted with singing and shouting by the Jews who would later shout "crucify him!". Maundy Thursday was the day when Jesus was betrayed. That evening He also instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Good Friday commemorates the day of Jesus' trial and death.

A moment of silence is observed to recall all that Jesus has done for you by His suffering and death. The bell will toll three times before we sing.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450 v.1,4

HOMILY**SENTENCE FOR HOLY WEEK**

Christ has humbled Himself and become obedient to death; even death on the cross.



HYMN "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461 v.1-2, 7-8

SCRIPTURE LESSON

I Corinthians 15:19-26

If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Easter is a time of joy that commemorates Christ's victory over death, sin, and the power of Satan. On the third day after His death, Jesus rose from the dead, completing a crushing blow to Satan. We rejoice knowing that sin and eternal death have been conquered through Jesus Resurrection. Because he lives, we too shall live!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(The Resurrected Christ is at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf and promises to hear our prayers.)*

SENTENCE FOR EASTER

Hallelujah! Christ has destroyed death! Hallelujah! And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Hallelujah!



HYMN "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" LSB 685 v.1, 3, 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-4,14-15,22-24

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Pentecost is a remembrance of when the Holy Spirit was poured out to Jesus' disciples after His ascension into heaven. The Holy Spirit continually works in the life of the church to bring Christ's forgiveness, strength, and salvation. The long season following Pentecost recounts the events in Christ's life.

OFFERING *(In response to all God does for us, we give a portion of what He has entrusted to us to use in the proclamation of His grace.)*

OFFERING HYMN "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" LSB 805

SENTENCE FOR PENTECOST

Hallelujah! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Hallelujah!

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

END TIME

HYMN "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME" LSB 549 v1

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

The End Time season, the last few Sundays in the Church Year, is a time to prepare us for the final judgment. We concentrate on remaining in God's good gifts of forgiveness and faith, so that we will enter into heaven on the last day.

BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep you.

The Lord Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you favor and Grant you Peace.

Amen.

SENTENCE FOR THE LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR

Hallelujah! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Hallelujah!

CLOSING HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733

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Soli Deo Gloria