



**December 22, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

## ***St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church***

***403 West Bridge Street, Brownstown, IN***

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### **The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

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## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**WELCOME to Worship today!** What a joy to be together in Christ! Please fill out the "Member" or "Guest" side of our Communication Card located in the pew racks. Please place them in the offering plate or hand to an elder during the singing of the first hymn. Prayer request cards are also available. Again, welcome!

**THE LORD'S SUPPER** is offered at the **10:30 AM service today** to all Confirmed members of our congregation.

**+ For personal preparation for communion**, use the following prayers:

**Before communion (communing):** Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**After Communion (Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament):** Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

**+ Lutherans** who are in good standing with their own congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) are welcome to join with us in receiving this blessed meal.

**+Guests** are asked to speak with the Pastor or elder **before** communing that they may properly understand the Lutheran teaching on the Lord's Supper.

**+ Children, Teens, and Adults** who have not yet completed confirmation instruction are invited to come forward with their row and cross their arms in front of their chest to receive a blessing from the Pastor during distribution.

**+ White grape juice** is available from the center of the individual cup tray.

**+ Gluten-Free wafers** are located in the silver dish at the center of the altar for you to pick up as you come forward. Standard wafers will be distributed to other communicants during the Distribution of the Supper.

**+ Communion at the pew** is available at the start of Distribution to those who sit in the second pew on either side.

**+ Those with wheelchairs or walkers** are invited to come forward with others who are communing. However, anyone who wishes to receive Communion at your seat please speak to an Elder or the Pastor prior to the start of Worship.

## **AS WE GATHER**

The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

### **Opening Hymn: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### **Invocation/ Confession and Absolution**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

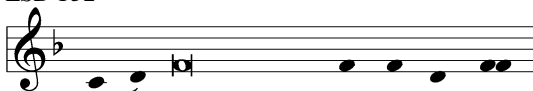
## Service of the Word

### Introit

*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
- C** **My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in your salvation.**
- P** There is none holy like the LORD;  
there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
- C** **The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.**
- P** The LORD kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- C** **The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low and he exalts.**
- C** **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.**
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

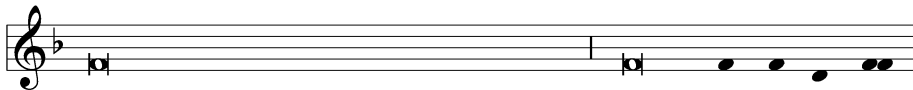
# Kyrie *LSB 152*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



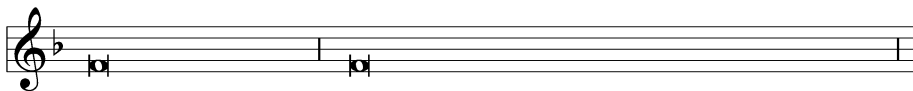
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



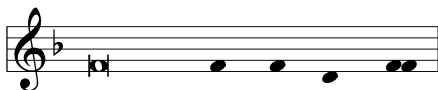
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



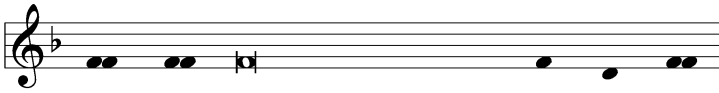
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle *Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*


## Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*



**G** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel *Luke 1:39–45*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **The Apostles' Creed** (see back cover of the hymnal)

*Sit*

### **Hymn of the Day: 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending**

- 1 The night will soon be ending;  
The dawn cannot be far.  
Let songs of praise ascending  
Now greet the Morning Star!  
All you whom darkness frightens  
With guilt or grief or pain,  
God's radiant Star now brightens  
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended  
Comes near, a child, to serve;  
Thus God, the judge offended,  
Bears all our sins deserve.  
The guilty need not cower,  
For God has reconciled  
Through His redemptive power  
All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation  
Will soon bring morning bright,  
So run where God's salvation  
Glows in a stable's light.  
As old as sin's perversion  
Is mercy's vast design:  
God brings a new creation—  
This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness  
And rob our hearts of peace,  
And sin in all its madness  
Around us may increase.  
But now one Star is beaming  
Whose rays have pierced the night:  
God comes for our redeeming  
From sin's oppressive might. ►



5 God dwells with us in darkness  
 And makes the night as day;  
 Yet we resist the brightness  
 And turn from God away.  
 But grace does not forsake us,  
 However far we run.  
 God claims us still as children  
 Through Mary's infant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007  
 Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001562

## Sermon

## The Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

*Stand*

## Offertory *LSB 159*



**G** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
 me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will  
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## 10:30 Service:

### New Member Confirmation of Jimmy, Caitlyn & William Baker

## Prayer of the Church

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### **8:00 AM service concludes at bottom of the page**

**The Lord's Prayer** (see back cover of the hymnal)

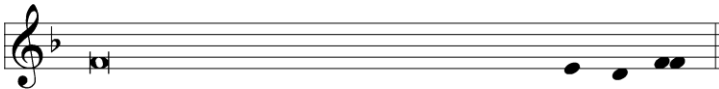
### **Collect for Grace**

- P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### **Benediction**

*LSB 166*



- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



*Sit*

### **Closing Hymn: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**

(page 17)

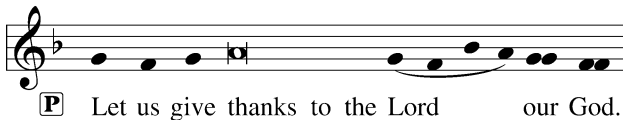
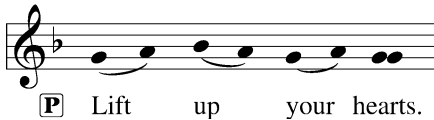
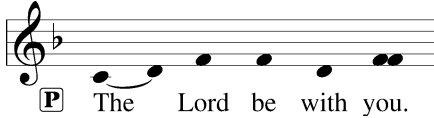
**Silent Prayer**

**Postlude**

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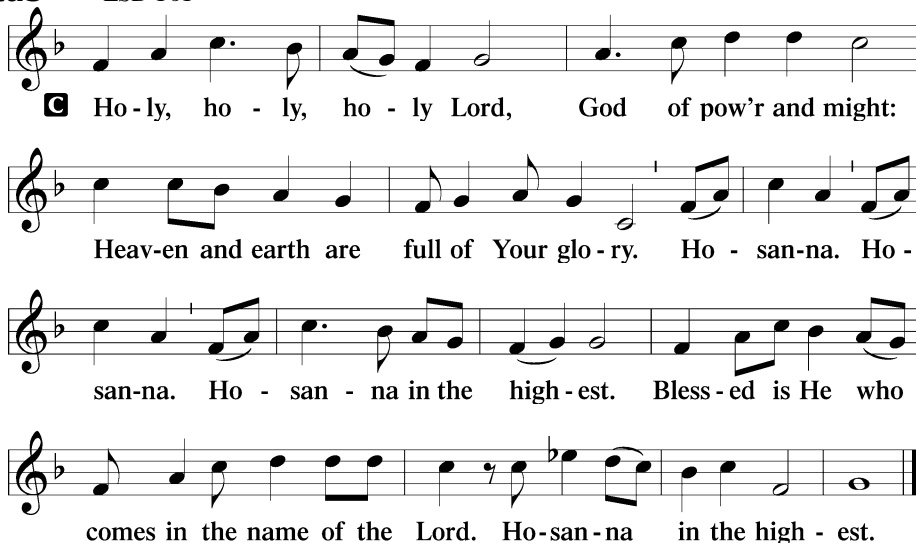
## **Service of the Sacrament: 10:30 AM Service continues here**

### **Preface** *LSB 160*



- P** It is truly good, 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 *LSB 161*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**



## **Distribution Hymn: 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives**

- 1 The gifts Christ freely gives, He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.
- 2 The gifts flow from the font, Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes, Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
- 3 The gifts of grace and peace, From absolution flow;  
The pastor's words are Christ's, For us to trust and know.  
Forgiveness that we need  
Is granted to us there;  
The Lord of mercy sends  
Us forth in His blest care.
- 4 The gifts are there each day, The holy Word is read;  
God's children listen, hear, Receive, and they are fed.  
Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world's strife.
- 5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine, Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One, Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love, Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947 Text: © 2001 Richard C. Resch. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001562

### **Distribution Hymn: 333 Once He Came in Blessing**

- 1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
- 2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish, Souls that they may flourish.
- 3 Soon will come that hour, When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor, And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing, Joy beyond comparing.
- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You, Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006  
Text (sts. 1, 4): Public domain Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001562

### **Distribution Hymn: 331 The Advent of Our King**

- 1 The advent of our King, Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son, Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise, To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day, Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.
- ▲6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Text: Public domain

Stand

## Thank the Lord *LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**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.

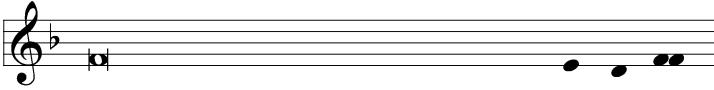


**C** A - - men.



## Benediction

LSB 166



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Closing Hymn: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt. Text: Public domain

Postlude

Silent Prayer

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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