

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Founded 1856
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, ME 48170
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**So there was a division
among the people
because of him.**

—John 7:43

Sunday, January 3, 2021
The Second Sunday of Christmas

Service Notes:

- The following psalms in the front of the hymnal (page 64f) will aid you in your meditation before receiving the Lord's Supper: Psalms 34, 42-43, 51, 84, 116, 150. Prayers for preparation for worship are on pages 10 and 11 in the hymnal. A form for preparation for Communion is on page 156.
- Please sign the friendship registry in the pews before the service or during the offering. If you have a prayer request or would like Pastor Schaefer to visit or call you, please note your request.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. Our guests are kindly asked to note that it is our practice to first become a member of our communion fellowship before communing with us. Please speak to our pastor about becoming a member of our communion fellowship.

THE COMMON SERVICE (page 15)

OPENING HYMN: #41 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

41

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
 Of paradise today.
 The angel guards the gate no more;
 To God our thanks we pay,
 To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

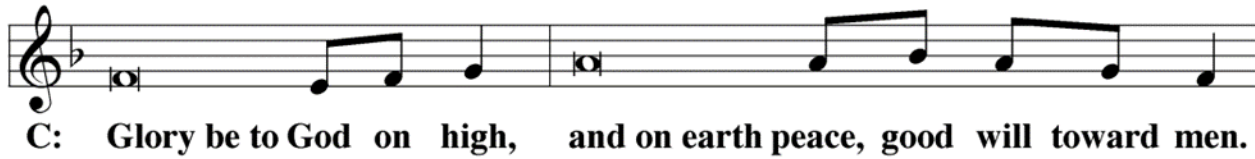


M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:



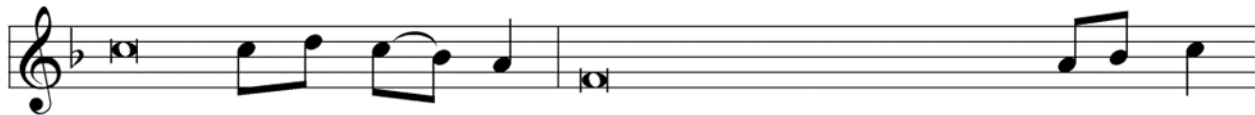
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

² 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 coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

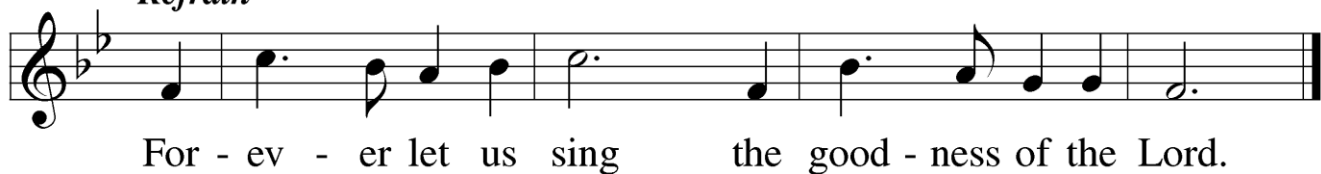
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ 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.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 148 Refrain Tune: J. Robert Carroll. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

Refrain



Psalm tone



praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,*
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
praise him, all you shining stars. ***Refrain***

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

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. *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and

faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

VERSE OF THE DAY (spoken by the pastor)

Alleluia! All the ends of the earth Have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia! (Psalm 98:3b)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



GOSPEL LESSON: John 7:40-43

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This really is the Prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him.



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from
true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
Mary,
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life (+) of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: #34 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor
 thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
 vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
 ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
 pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
 sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
 all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

SERMON

STAND

PSALM 51 RESPONSE (page 20)



C: 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 your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

BE SEATED

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<p>Congregation President: Bruce Winkler</p> <p>Vice President: Richard Cording</p> <p>Council Secretary: Jim Cutler</p> <p>Treasurer: Seth Anderson</p> <p>Financial Secretaries: Steve Jacobi Van Varner</p>	<p>Board of Elders – Mark Castellese Scott Beckerman Ron Bude Ed Jacobi Steve Wendland</p> <p>Board of Stewardship and Education – Rick Carr Ernie Honke Don Lohrmann</p>	<p>Board of Trustees – Nils Peterson Lindsay Brooke Dan Pearce Warren Stobbe Dave Sylvester Luke Wels Zac Winkler</p>
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

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M: During these holy days, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from (+) evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BE SEATED

Please use this time for personal preparation or meditation before the Lord's Supper. A form to assist you is on page 156 in the front part of the hymnal.



THE SACRAMENT (Page 21)

STAND

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

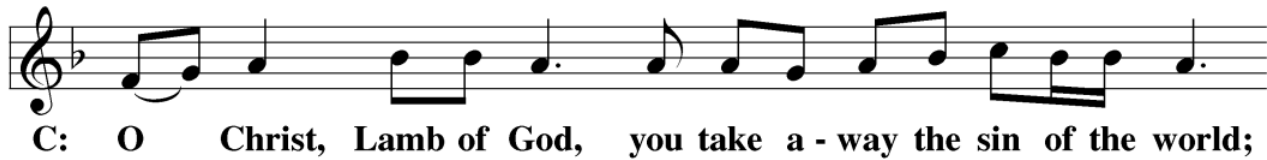
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is the new testament in my (+) blood, which is poured out for you for the

forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace (+) of the Lord be with you always.



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

#50 “Once in Royal David’s City”

50

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en
 3 But our eyes at last shall see him
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble

Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a
 Who is God and Lord of all, And his
 Through his own re - deem - ing love, For that
 With the ox - en stand - ing by Shall we

moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger
 shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his cra - dle
 child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our Lord in
 see him, but in heav - en, Set at God's right

for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er mild,
 was a stall; With the poor and mean and low - ly
 heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren on
 hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren crowned,

Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 To the place where he is gone.
 All in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–95, abr., alt.
 Tune: IRBY (87 87 77) Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76.

THANKSGIVING (page 24)

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc dimittis*)

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

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OFFICIANTS:

Preacher and Celebrant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Communion Assistants: Ron Bude and Mark Castellese

Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

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| Today | - 9:30 AM Divine Service
10:45 AM Removal of Sanctuary Christmas Decorations |
| Tuesday | - 7:00 PM Board Meetings for Trustees and Education/Stewardship
- 8:00 PM Church Council Meeting |
| Wednesday | - 10:00 AM Online Bible Class |
| Thursday | - 7:00 Adult Information Class |
| Sunday | - 9:30 AM Divine Service
-10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class |

Serving next week: Altar Guild – Jan Jacobi; **Ushering:** Team 2

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE: We ask that you disperse in the sanctuary (practice social distancing). For Holy Communion we will have smaller communion tables so that you are able to spread out along the communion rail. Offerings will be gathered at the entrance to the sanctuary. Pastor and communion assistants will practice handwashing and/or other safe practices; in addition, the officiants will wear masks for the distribution. Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases, all are asked to wear a face covering while in the church. Ushers will assist by ushering you from the pew

following the service. Please do not gather in the narthex. The church building will receive a thorough cleaning and disinfecting every week. If you are unable to attend yet, Pastor Schaefer will be glad to make arrangements with you for private Communion. We are posting the entire service on our website after each service.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS - All (newly elected as well as ongoing) board members and officers will be installed into their offices today. The installation will take place during the Divine Service. We ask all to attend if possible. May the Lord bless your willing and faithful service to our congregation and his Church.

PLEASE HELP remove the church Christmas decorations after the Divine Service today, January 3. More helpers mean faster completion of our task!

PASTORAL CARE & MERCY – Please remember with prayers, cards and visits those whose needs have been reported.

The Pastoral Staff Church Office: 734-453-3393 www.splp.org stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com Pastor: Rev. Paul Schaefer Pastor's Cellphone: 734-658-5735 Pastor's email: Peschaef5@gmail.com Music Director: Jan Jacobi Church Secretary: Carol Schwartz	St. Peter's Preschool Rebecca Lohrmann, Director Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) (Saginaw) 989-793-1041 Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL) (Westland) 734-525-0160	Congregation President: Bruce Winkler Vice President: Richard Cording Council Secretary: Jim Cutler Treasurer: Seth Anderson Financial Secretaries: Steve Jacobi Van Varner Board Chairmen: Elders – Mark Castellese Stewardship/Education - Rick Carr Trustees – Nils Peterson
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