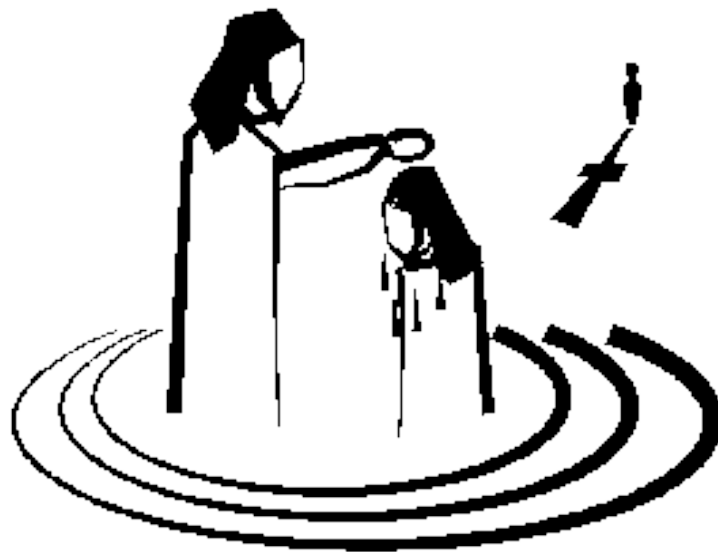


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Founded 1856
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, ME 48170
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



I Baptize With Water
But One Mightier
Is Coming

Sunday, December 12, 2021
The Third Sunday of Advent

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)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

The soloist will sing "Light the Candle" as the candles are lit:

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Light the candle of joy today; the Giver of joy is here!

Welcome the joy we crave and pray for, but only Christ can give.

Flicker and flame and glow with joy; light up the world around you.

OPENING HYMN: #552 v. 1,12,3 "By All Your Saints Still Striving"

Contributors: Horatio Bolton Nelson Text: Based on Horatio Nelsen, by Godwin; © Church Pension Fund. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

552

By All Your Saints Still Striving

St. John the Baptist

1 By all your saints still striv - ing, For
2 All praise for John the Bap - tist, Fore -
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And

all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
run - ner of the Word, Our true E - li - jah,
wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the

Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You
mak - ing A high - way for the Lord. The
Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till

rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they
last and great - est proph - et, He saw
all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand

might wear the crown And ev - er shine in
the dawn - ing ray Of light that grows in
be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and

splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.
splen - dor Un - til the per - fect day.
glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

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

C: A - men.

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:

All Glory Be to God on High

Gloria in Excelsis

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, Who has our
 2 We praise, we wor - ship you, we trust; We give you
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Of God, your
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, pre - cious Gift, Our Com - fort -



race be - friend - ed! To us no harm shall
 thanks for - ev - er, O Fa - ther, that your
 heav'n - ly Fa - ther, You did for all our
 er from heav - en, Our wea - ry hearts and



now come nigh; The strife at last is end - ed. The
 rule is just And wise and chang - es nev - er. In
 sins a - tone, And your lost sheep you gath - er. O
 souls up - lift; For this our praise is giv - en. De -



Fa - ther's love, the Sav - ior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to
 bound - less pow'r, with might - y reign, Done is what - ev - er
 Lamb of God, to you on high From depths of woe we
 liv - er us from doubt and fear; When Sa - tan trou - bles



all the earth; Oh, thank him for his good - ness!
 you or - dain; Your rule brings count - less bless - ings!
 sin - ners cry, Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!
 us, be near; We trust your love and pow - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130 – The congregation will
sing **Hymn 305** “From Depths of Woe I Cry to You”

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305 From the Depths of Woe I Cry to You



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
 2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
 my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail
 my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word
 longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept
 To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you
 To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is
 Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me
 none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your
 mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort
 Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 4.
 St. 4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
 Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT (87 87 887) Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your

requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY (sung by the soloist)

Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia! (Matthew 11:10 cf.)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ [John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”

¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers

also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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: #14 “Arise, O Christian People”

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ADVENT

14

Arise, O Christian People

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn

pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
not from me a - side, And help me to re -

Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From

us by grace a - lone The truth and
straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
stall and man - ger low Come now to

light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT (Page 123)

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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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.

NOTE: *Please be prepared to receive the host in your outstretched hand, rather than in your mouth.*



THE SACRAMENT (Page 21)

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



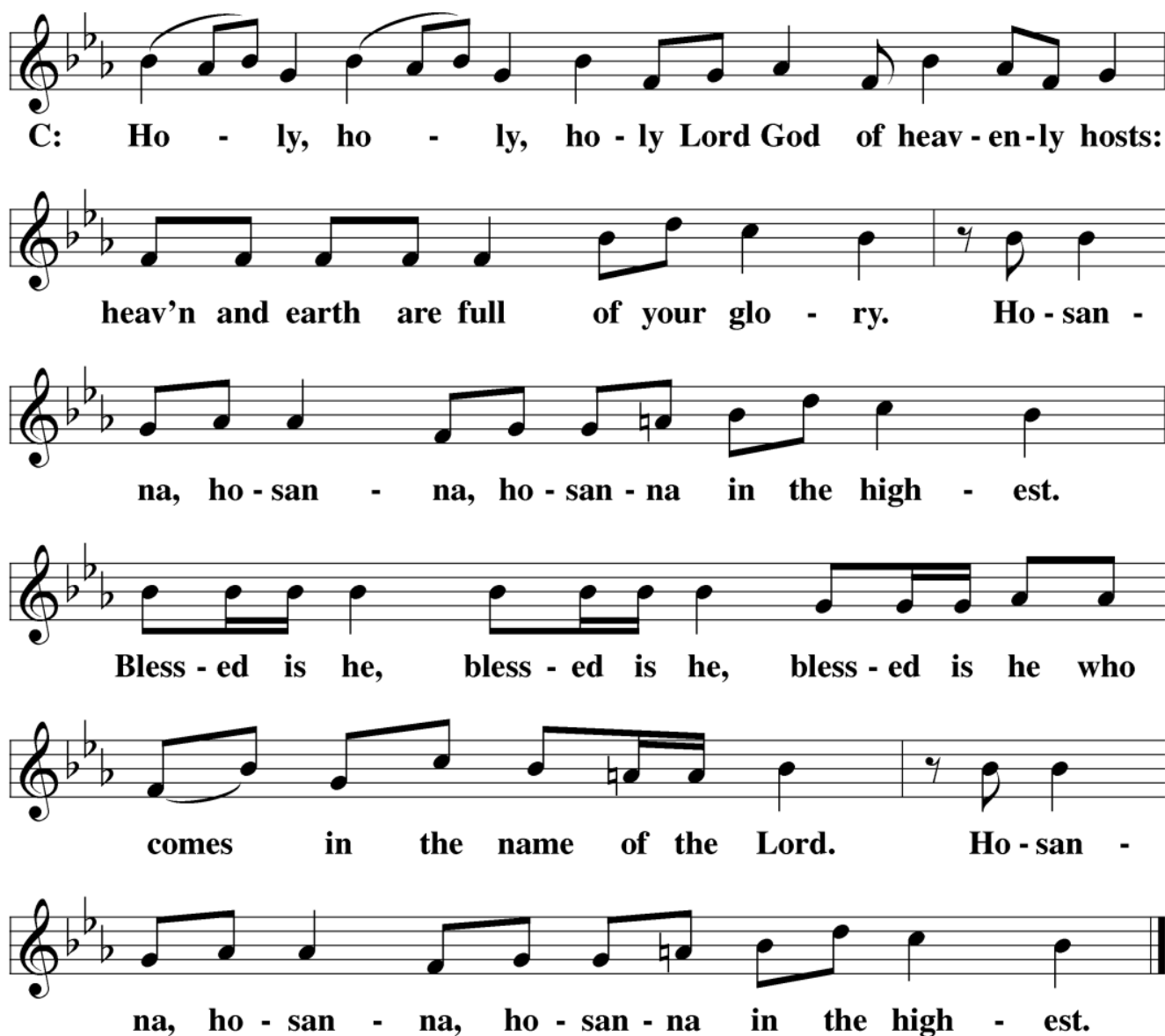
C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



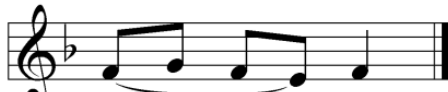
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - 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.



C: A - men.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM: "The Moon with Borrowed Light"

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The moon with borrowed light gives witness to the sun,
Discreetly fading with the night when morning has begun.
John's borrowed light was drawn from heaven's vibrant rays,
His life a witness to the dawn of Christ's approaching blaze.

The temple Levites asked what title did John claim.
He said he had a single task, a single goal and aim:
To redirect their sight beyond what he had done—
To Christ the pure and primal light that lightens everyone.

The clouds of sin yet mask earth's tangled, stubbly ground,
And, oh, how many hearts still ask where God's clear path is found.
For borrowed light we pray, so we may be a sign
That points to Christ, the truth, the way, the life, the light divine.

DISTRIBUTION AND DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#15 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" Tune: William H. Monk

#17 "God's Own Son Most Holy" Contributors: Jack Warren Burnam

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ADVENT

15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n,
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

God's Own Son Most Holy



1 God's own Son most ho - ly Came a ser - vant low - ly,
 2 Still he comes with - in us; Still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if we have known him And will not dis - own him
 4 Those who then are loy - al Find a wel-come roy - al.



Came to live a - mong us, Came to suf - fer for us,
 From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth con - vert us
 Nor have loved him cold - ly But will trust him bold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re - lease us.



Bore the cross to save us, Hope and free-dom gave us.
 From our fool-ish er - rors Ere he comes in ter - rors.
 He will then re - ceive us, Heal us, and for - give us.
 Let us here con - fess you Till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN (66 66 66) attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534.

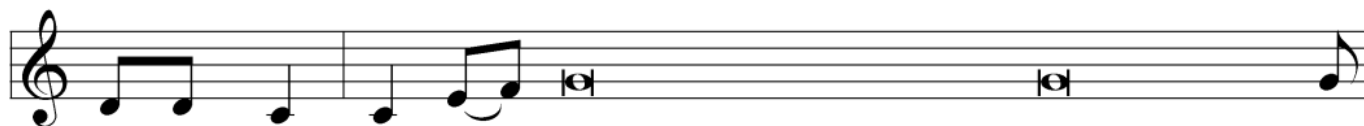
THANKSGIVING (page 24)

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-

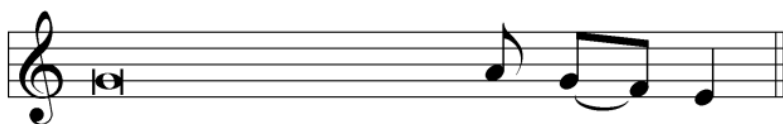


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



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: Scott Beckerman and Steve Wendland

Organist and Soloist: Julie Webber

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 11:00 AM Preschool Christmas Service
- 3:00 PM Huron Valley Lutheran High School Christmas Concert
- Tuesday - 7:00 PM Voters Meeting for Elections and Budget Approval
- Wednesday - 9:30 AM Online Bible Class
- Thursday – 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 AM Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

Serving next week:	Ushering	Altar Guild
Sunday, December 19, 9:30 AM	Team 4	Carol Schwartz;
Christmas Eve, Friday Dec. 24, 7:00 PM	Team 1	No communion
Christmas Eve, Friday Dec. 24, 11:00 PM	Team 2	Jan Jacobi
Christmas Day, Saturday Dec. 25, 10:00 AM	Team 3	Kyna Pearce

Needed: Christmas cookies for the shut ins. Please have them in the church basement by Tuesday December 14th. Assembly will be on Wednesday December 15th @ 11am. Any help is welcomed.

Preschool Christmas Service: Please join us today, December 12 at 11:00 am for the Children's Christmas Service. Our Parent & Tot and Preschool children will be singing. Pastor will have a message geared for the children. The congregation will sing some familiar Christmas hymns. We will have light refreshments following the service.

The annual **Budget and Elections Voters Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM.

Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for the positions of Accounting Clerk (Accounts Payable), Financial Wellness Trainer, Resource Development Counselor, Resource Development Manager, Women's Tennis Head Coach, Athletics Equipment Manager, and Early Childhood Learning Center Substitute Teachers. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

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

<u>At Medilodge, Plymouth</u> Lenora Bude	<u>At Home</u> Mary Simpson Wendy LaManna Charlotte Lohrmann Mary Marlow Barbara Cutler Nena Obst Robert Obst	Irene Gladish (mother of Yvonne Alaniva) Santiago Facundo (mother of Emy Creaney) Don Schroeder Sr. Norma Beckerman (mother of Scott Beckerman) Keri Mueller (daughter of Nils Peterson) Andy Haines Dorothy Sark Diane Wavrek Ray Douglas
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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: Tracy Pitt	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 – Ron Bude Stewardship/Education - Rick Carr Trustees – Nils Peterson
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Do you enjoy singing Christmas carols?



Join us for a Christmas Eve

Carol Festival Service

Friday, December 24 7:00 p.m.

******Also******

December 24 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Divine Service

December 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Divine Service

December Update

In partnership with families and Association churches, HVL exists to provide each student with a quality Christ-centered education preparing them for lives of service now and for eternity.



Merry Christmas from HVL!

During the Christmas season we reflect on the fact that God has blessed us with many physical gifts that we can touch, see, and enjoy, but his greatest gifts we grasp only by faith. We pray that God blesses your Christmas celebration with the comfort and promises of the greatest blessing of all -- Christ Jesus our Savior.

HVL Christmas Concert

Come join us on December 12th at 3pm as our choirs and band perform our annual Christmas concert. Since our fall concert was canceled, this concert will make use of some of the pieces that were planned for that concert as well. Everyone is invited.

Giving Tuesday

A huge thank you for the generosity shown throughout our Giving Tuesday campaign. Total gifts given exceeded \$26,000. This along with other special gifts given in the month of November keeps us on pace with this year's budget.

Thrivent Action Awards

If you are a Thrivent member and want to hear more about how to support HVL through Action Teams or Choice Dollars, please reach out to HVL and let us know. We can work with you to make the most of these giving opportunities.

Join HVL's Mailing List

Go to HVLHS.org and click on "Sign up for Newsletter" or call or email the school office at mail@hvlhs.org to be added.

