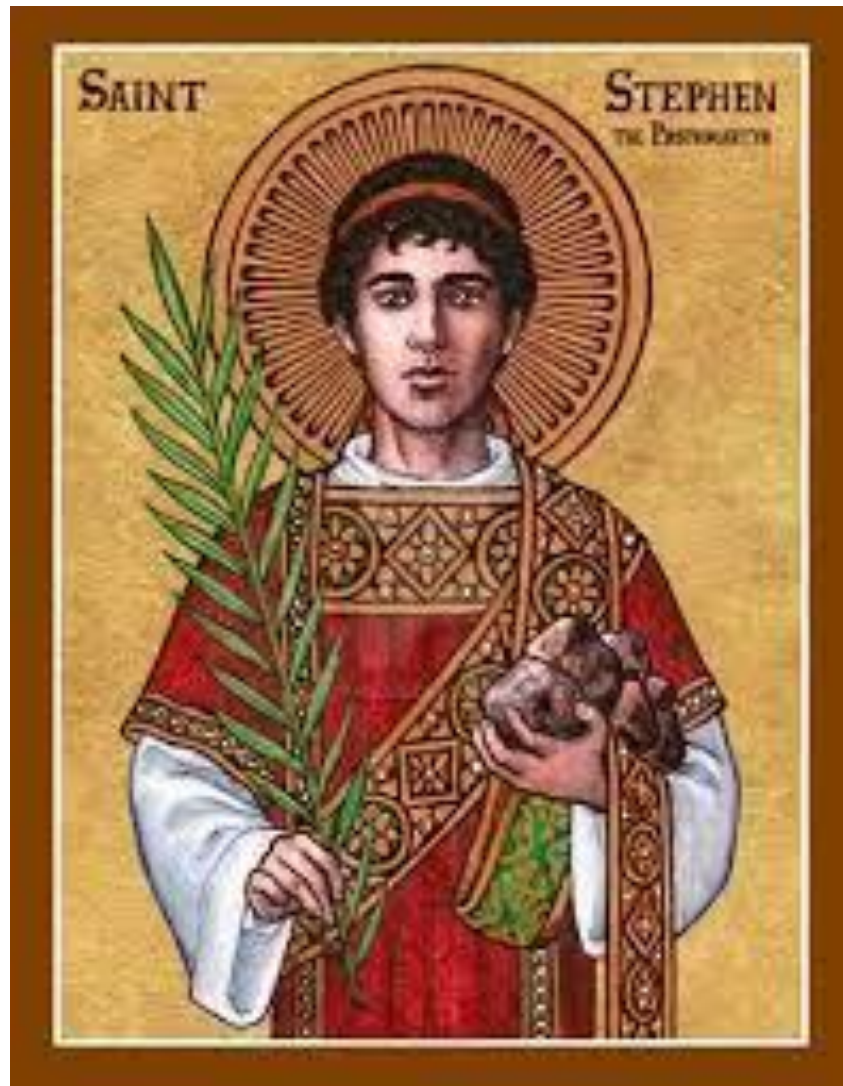


*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Founded 1856*  
*1343 Penniman Avenue*  
*Plymouth, ME 48170*  
*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*



*Sunday, December 26, 2021*  
*The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr*

## **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.

**St. Stephen**, was a Christian deacon in Jerusalem and the first Christian martyr. His defense of his faith before the rabbinic court enraged his Jewish audience, and he was taken out of the city and stoned to death. His final words, a prayer of forgiveness for his attackers (Acts of the Apostles 7:60), echo those of Jesus on the cross (Luke 23:34).

## **THE COMMON SERVICE (page 15)**

**OPENING HYMN: #549** "Around the Throne, a Glorious Band"  
Text: Roland Hill

# 549      Around the Throne, a Glorious Band



1 A - round the throne, a glo - rious band, The  
 2 Through trib - u - la - tion great they came; They  
 3 They see their Sav - ior face to face And  
 4 "Wor - thy the Lamb, for sin - ners slain, Through  
 5 Oh, may we tread the sa - cred road That



saints in count - less num - bers stand, Of  
 bore the cross, de - spised the shame. From  
 sing the tri - umphs of his grace. Each  
 end - less years to live and reign; You  
 saints and ho - ly mar - tyrs trod, Wage



ev - 'ry tongue, re - deemed to God, Ar -  
 all their la - bors now they rest In  
 day and night they sing his praise, To  
 have re - deemed us by your blood, And  
 to the end the glo - rious strife, And



rayed in gar - ments washed in blood.  
 God's e - ter - nal glo - ry blest.  
 him the loud thanks - giv - ing raise:  
 made us kings and priests to God."  
 win, like them, a crown of life.

Text: Rowland Hill, 1744–1833, abr., alt.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD (LM) *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, London, 1778, adapt.

## STAND

**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*)



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**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.



C: A - men.

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

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



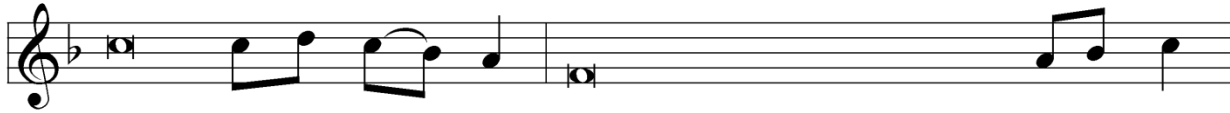
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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.

Eternal Son of God, accompany us with your grace, that whenever we suffer for your Word, we may follow the example of Saint Stephen, your first martyr, and like him, commending our cause to you, be ready to pray for those who would do us harm; 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:** Jeremiah 26: 1-9, 12-15

**26** In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup> “Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup> It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup> You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup> and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup> then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

<sup>7</sup> The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. <sup>8</sup> And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup> Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup> Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup> But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup> Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 31

*Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Psalm tone*



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. ***Refrain***

My times are in your hands;  
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness,  
which you have stored up for those who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy  
when I called to you for help.



**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:** Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid: For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Refrain Tune: Jack Noble White. © 1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co.). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-722670. All rights reserved.

## **SECOND LESSON:** Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” <sup>12</sup> And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, <sup>13</sup> and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” <sup>15</sup> And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**7** And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” <sup>2</sup> And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me.

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

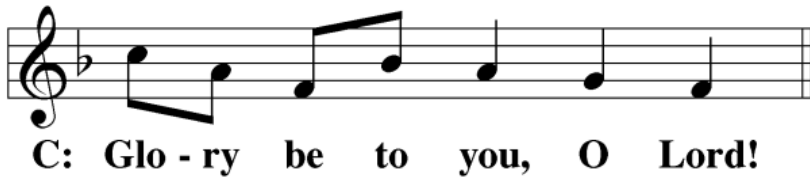
## **VERSE OF THE DAY** (spoken by the pastor)

Alleluia! Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia! (Matthew 5:10)

**STAND**

## **GOSPEL:** Matthew 23:34-39

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



<sup>34</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, <sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not. <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”



## 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: #552 v. 1,25,3 “By All Your Saints Still Striving”

Contributors: Horatio Bolton Nelson Text: Based on Horatio Nelsen, by Godwin; © Church

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1 By all your saints still striving, For  
2 All praise, O Lord, for Stephen, Who,  
3 Then let us praise the Father And  
all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
mar - tyred, saw you stand To help in time of  
wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the  
Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You  
tor - ment, To plead at God's right hand. Like  
Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till  
rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they  
you, our suff - 'ring Sav - ior, His en  
all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand  
might wear the crown And ev - er shine in  
e - mies he blessed; With "Lord, re - ceive my  
be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and  
splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.  
spir - it," His faith, in death, con - fessed.  
glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio B. Nelson, 1823–1913, st. 1-4, 6-27, alt.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 5.  
St. 1-4, 6-27. From *The Hymnal* 1982. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used by  
permission of Church Publishing Inc., New York, NY.  
St. 5 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

# 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 FESTIVAL OF ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR

**M:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, and her ministers. Let Your Word be treasured and Your commandments honored, that Your Church and her congregations may prosper. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**M:** Your will is for the good of Your people, and You gather Your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Preserve our families, especially the children of Christian parents, that they may grow in the knowledge of You and of Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**M:** Behold, O Lord, the princes and rulers of this world. Do not let those who serve You abandon Your house. Turn the hearts of those who serve false idols to heed Your truth. Give peace in our time, that the confession of the incarnate Savior may have free course. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**M:** O Giver of all that good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Give them also the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**M:** Holy God, Your Son stands at the right hand of Your majesty, powerful to be present and active with His Church scattered throughout the world. Give Your blessing to all who receive His true body and blood in the Sacrament, that in this communion we may receive His pardon. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**M:** Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your servant St. Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory at the right hand of the Father. May we, Your people, imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with

boldness, to forgive those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross, and to fall asleep in Him. When our last hour comes, let us be born into eternal life and receive the crown of life, for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

**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.*

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

**STAND**



## **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, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the

race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 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.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



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 AND DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

### #555 "For All Your Saints, O Lord"

Contributors: Richard Mant, William Monk; Setting

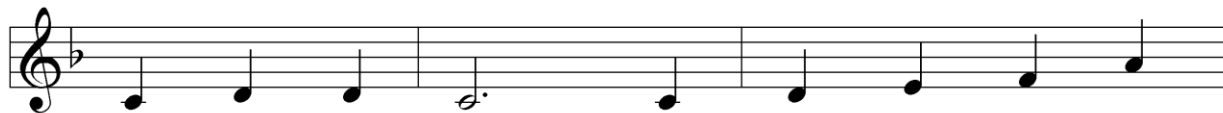
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555

## For All Your Saints, O Lord



1 For all your saints, O Lord, Who strove  
 2 For all your saints, O Lord, Who strove  
 3 They all in life and death, With you,  
 4 For this your name we bless And hum -



in you to live, Who fol - lowed you, o -  
 in you to die, Who count - ed you their  
 their Lord, in view, Learned from your Ho - ly  
 bly pray a - new That we like them in



beyed, a - dored, Our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
 great re - ward, Ac - cept our thank - ful cry.  
 Spir - it's breath To suf - fer and to do.  
 ho - li - ness May live and die in you.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, abr., alt.

Tune: ENERGY (SM) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

## 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: Bruce Winkler and Scott Beckerman

Organist: Jan Jacobi

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service

- NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Class

Wednesday – NO Online Bible Class

Thursday – NO Senior Choir or Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service

-10:45 AM Removal of Christmas Decorations

Serving next week: Altar Guild – Diane Wendland; Ushering – Team 1

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

<b>The Pastoral Staff</b> Church Office: 734-453-3393 <a href="http://www.splp.org">www.splp.org</a> <a href="mailto:stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com">stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com</a> Pastor: Rev. Paul Schaefer Pastor's Cellphone: 734-658-5735 Pastor's email: Peschae5@gmail.com Music Director: Jan Jacobi Church Secretary: Tracy Pitt	<b>St. Peter's Preschool</b> Rebecca Lohrmann, Director  <b>Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS)</b> (Saginaw) 989-793-1041  <b>Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)</b> (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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