

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



Christmas Day
December 25, 2024

Service Notes: Psalms 34, 42-43, 51, 84, 116, and 150 in the front of the hymnal will aid you in your meditation before receiving the Lord's Supper. Prayers for worship preparation are on pages 10 and 11. A form for Communion preparation is on page 156.

- Guests, please sign the guest registry in the narthex.
- If you have a prayer request or would like Pastor Schaefer to visit or call you, please talk to him (734-658-5735).

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)

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES LIGHTING: (Cantor) "Light a

Candle, in the Night" as the candle is lit: Original Words: Emily E. S. Elliot, 1864; Tune: MARGARET by Timothy R. Matthews, 1876. Both public domain. Edited Words and Arranged Music: Lloyd Larson ©2011 Lorenz Publishing Co. Reprinted, podcast, and recorded with permission under One Licenses: #A722670 and #R101103, respectively. All rights reserved.

Light a Candle in the night, prepare the way of the holy light. God with us
Emmanuel,

2.the Prince of peace with us to dwell. Child of peace,

come in Your glory, heaven's gift, the wondrous story.

Messiah King shall come to earth. Prepare your heart for His holy birth.

OPENING HYMN: 'Ihr Kinderlein, kommet' (Original German

Title), 'O Come, Little Children' Original German Text: Christoph von Schmid 1798, Tune: Johann Abraham Paul Schulz, 1794. Public Domain. English Translator unknown, date 1840, Setting: *Christmas in Song* ©1947 Rubank Inc. (now defunct) whose parent is Hal Leonard Corporation. All rights reserved.

① Come, Little Children

C. von SCHMIDT, 1840

J. P. A. SCHULZ, 1840

mp

1. O come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come one and all, To
 2. He's born in a sta - ble for you and for me, Draw
 3. See Ma - ry and Jo - seph with love beam - ing eyes Are
 4. Kneel down and a - dore Him with shep - herds to - day, Lift

Beth - le - hem haste, to the man - ger so small, God's
 near by the bright gleam - ing Star - light to see, In
 gaz - ing up - on the rude bed where He lies, The
 up lit - tle hands now and praise Him as they; Re -

Son for a gift has been sent you this night To
 swad - dling clothes ly - ing so meek and so mild, And
 shep - herds are kneel - ing, with hearts full of love, While
 joice that a Sav - ior from sin you can boast, And

be your re - deem - er, your joy and de - light.
 pur - er than an - gels the heav - en - ly child.
 an - gels sing loud hal - le - lu - jahs a - bove.
 join in the song of the heav - en - ly host.

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

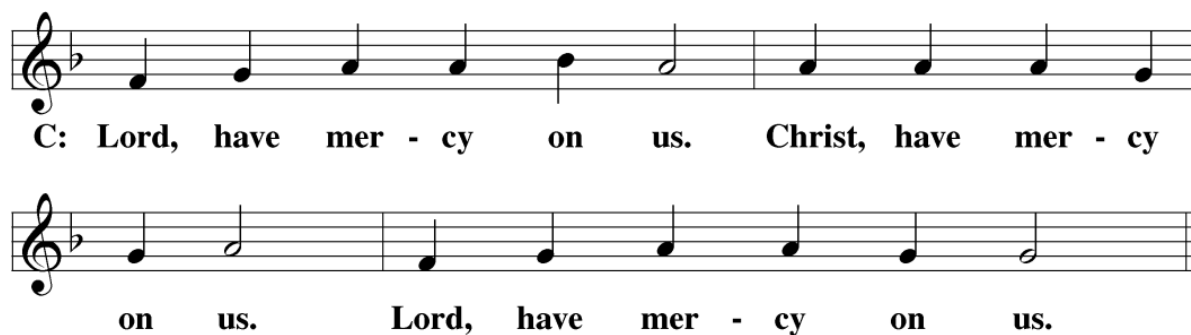


CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

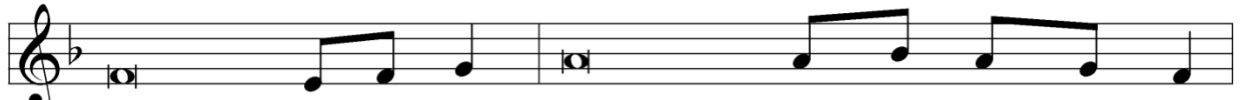


C: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

GLORY BE TO GOD (*Gloria in excelsis*)



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, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock ²² and while my glory passes by I will put in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

34 ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 98, Congregation sings

HYMN #62 'Joy to the World' Public Domain.

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

VERSE OF THE DAY (Cantor) Galatians 4:4, 5a

Alleluia! When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia!

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him,

yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

The Lutheran Study Bible, English Standard Version, ©2006 Concordia Publishing House.



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.**

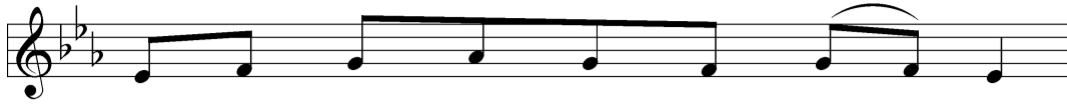
BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: #35 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

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35

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

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 – CHRISTMAS DAY

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M: On this holy day, 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

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, 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



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

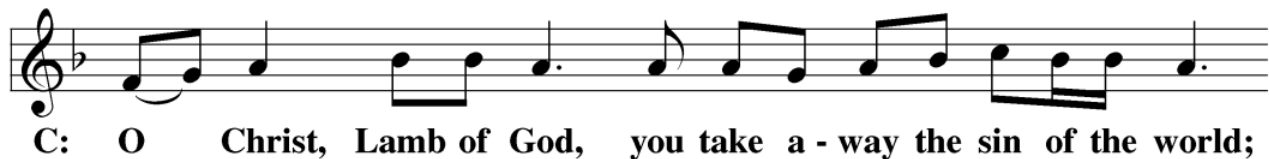
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.



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O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM: (Cantor) 'Sing We Now of

Christmas' Translated Text and Arrangement: Richard Zgodava ©1966 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.

Refrain: Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we here Noel.

1. Of our Lord and Savior We the tidings tell. Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel! **Refrain**

2. Angels did say, O shepherds come and see, Born in Bethlehem, A Blessed Lamb for thee, Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel!
Repeat. Refrain.

3. In the manger bed, the shepherds found the Child. Joseph was there, and Mother, Mary mild. Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel! Sing we Noel! For Christ is born Noel! **Refrain**

4. Magi oriental journeyed from afar. They did come to greet him "neath the shining star. Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel! **Repeat**

5. Now together sing, Let our voices ring, Thanks to God on high. **Repeat.** Sing we here Noel. **Repeat.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

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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.

#55 "O Come, All ye Faithful" Public Domain

CHRISTMAS

55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

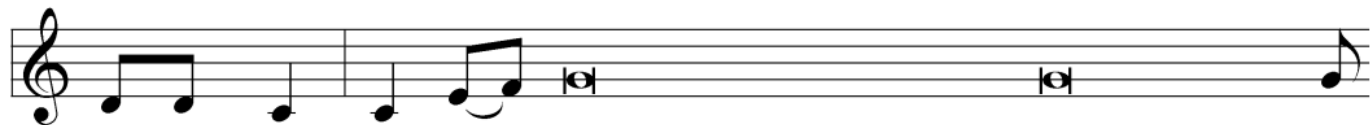
THANKSGIVING (page 24)

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-

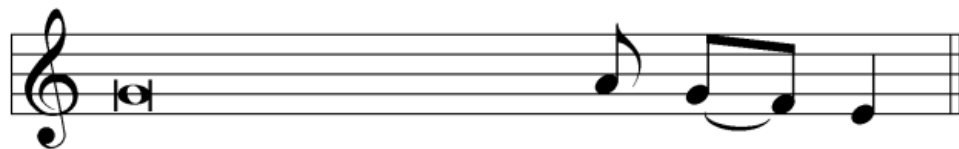


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



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.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

OFFICIANTS:

Preacher and Celebrant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Communion Assistant: Ron Bude; Organist and Soloist: Julie Webber