

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



*Sunday, December 10, 2017*  
*The Second 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 Second Advent Wreath Candle**

The soloist will sing as the candle is lit:

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For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.

Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.

Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

### **OPENING HYMN: #702 "Prepare the Royal Highway" (See**

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## Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and  
 own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -  
 greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry  
 comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



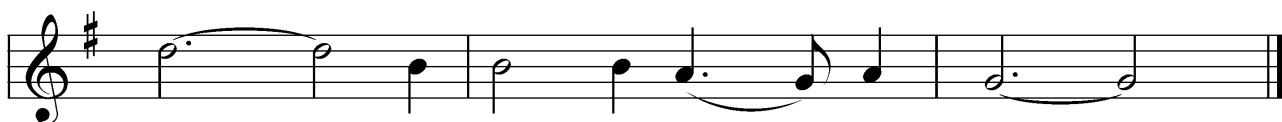
val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
 free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall  
 All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:  
 doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the  
 now a - dore him!  
 so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

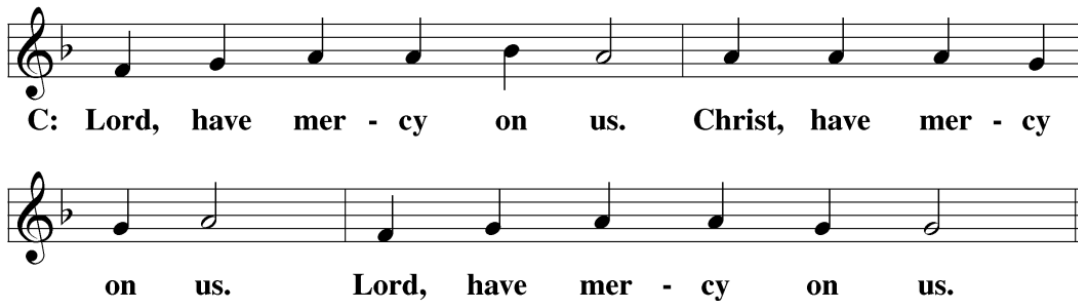


## CONFESSION OF SINS

**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:

263

### 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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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.

**BE SEATED**



## THE WORD

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
 lift it up, fear not;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
 “Behold your God!”  
<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 behold, his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
 he will carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead those that are with young.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85**

*Refrain*



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

*Psalm tone*



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;\*  
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people\*  
 and covered all their sins.



Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your salvation. **Refrain**

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**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***

Refrain Tune: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net License A-722670.

## **SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies

will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

<sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY** (sung by the soloist)

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf.)

### **STAND**

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



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

## **GOSPEL LESSON:** Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



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: #16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cry”**

### **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**

### **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING 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.

**STAND**

### **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.

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## 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.**



## 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 AND DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:**

**#11** "Comfort, Comfort, All My People"

**#1** "The Advent of Our King"

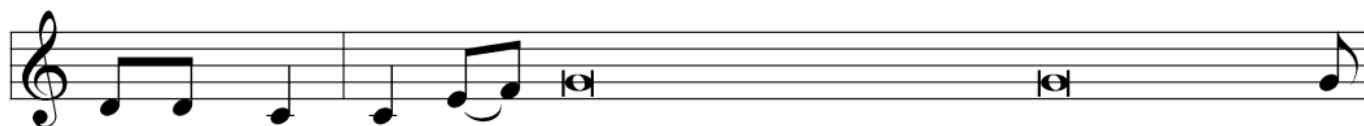
**THANKSGIVING** (page 24)

**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-

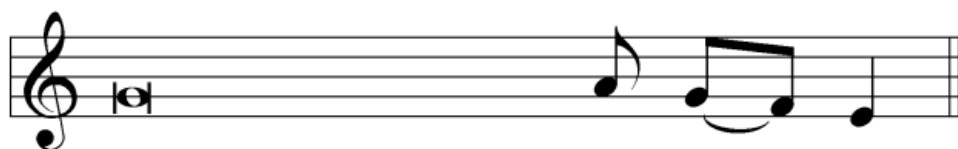


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



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: Dan Lanning and Scott Beckerman

Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi; Soloist: Jim Cutler

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S**

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service  
-11:00 AM Preschool Service and Reception
- Monday - 7:00 PM Adult Bible Information Class
- Wednesday - 9:00 AM Bible Class
- Thursday - 6:30 PM Handbell Choir rehearsal  
- 7:00 PM Senior Choir rehearsal
- Saturday - 9:00 AM Youth Catechism
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service  
-10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Serving next week: Altar Guild – Margaret Seppanen  
Ushering: Team 4

**Please plan on staying for the preschool outreach service and reception today, Sunday, after the Divine Service. It is a good opportunity to welcome new families to our church family!**

**PASTOR SCHAEFER'S DIVINE CALL:** As announced after the Divine Service of November 19, I have received a divine call to serve as the pastor of a dual congregational parish. The congregations are Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Wabasha, Minnesota and Grace Lutheran Church of Nelson, Wisconsin. I have decided to decline the call to Our Redeemer, Wabasha and Grace, Nelson. Thanks to all for your prayers and words of encouragement. Please keep these two congregations in your prayers that the Lord would send a shepherd to them as well.

**Associate Pastor Call for St. Peter's** – The Church Council (in conjunction with the Michigan District President and Circuit Pastor) has scheduled a call meeting for **Wednesday, January 10, 7:00PM** to extend a call for an associate pastor at St. Peter's.

Also at this meeting will be a recommendation to extend a permanent (as opposed to a one year call) to Rebecca Lohrmann as Preschool Director. This will remain a half-time position at this time.

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

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**Carol Schwartz**

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Congregation Chairman:  
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Vice Chairman: Bruce Winkler  
Secretary: open  
Treasurer: Seth Anderson  
Financial Secretary: Steve Jacobi,  
Curtis Krallman  
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