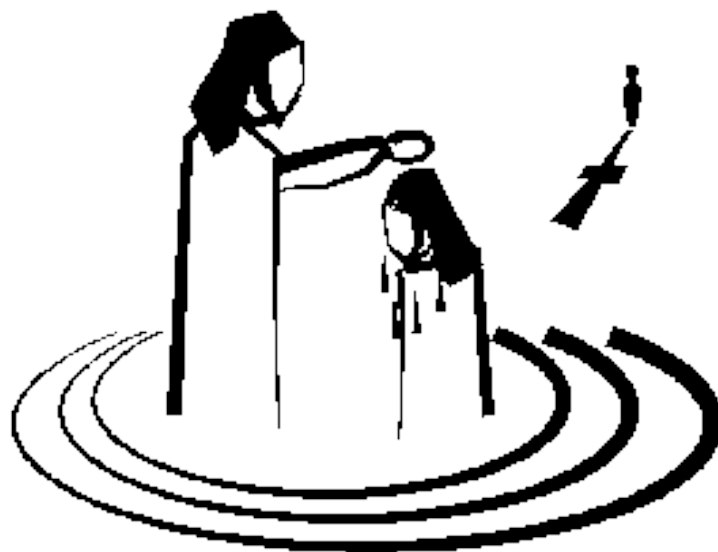


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Founded 1856
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, ME 48170
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



I Baptize With Water
But One Mightier
Is Coming

Sunday, December 16, 2018
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 Third Advent Wreath Candle

The choir will sing "Light a Candle in the Night" as the candles are lit:

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Light a candle in the night. Prepare the way for the holy light.

God with us, Emmanuel, Unending love with us to dwell.

Child of love, 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: #552 v. 1,12,3 "By All Your Saints Still Striving"

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

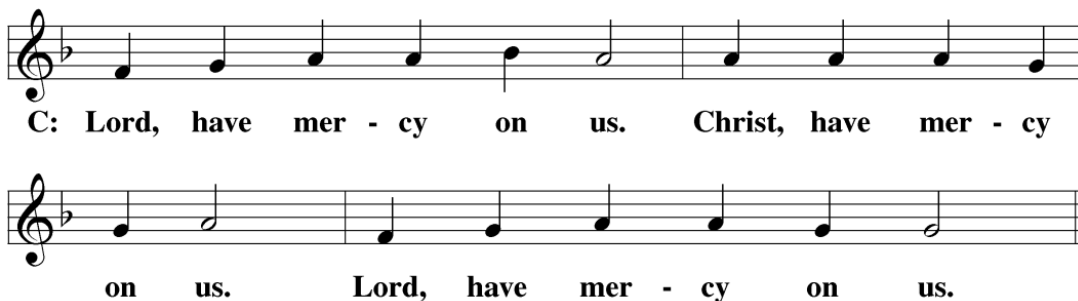


CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his

authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

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.

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”

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 choir)

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 He 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”

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 MUSIC (Handbells): “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

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.

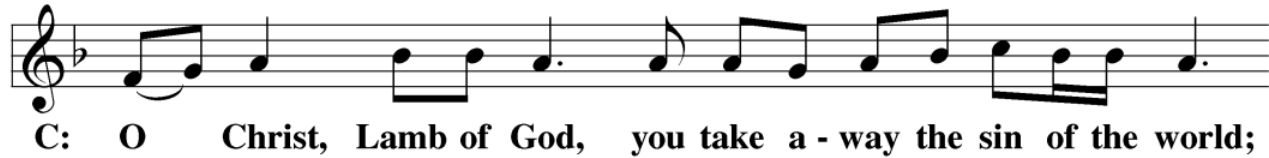
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION AND DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#20 “When All the World Was Cursed”

THANKSGIVING (page 24)

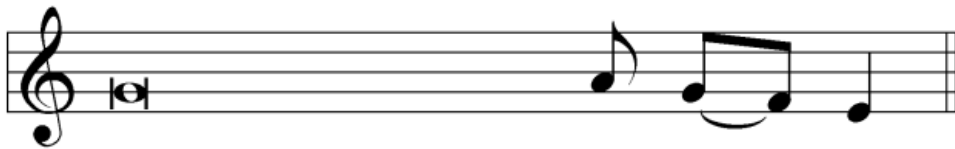
STAND

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: Mark Castellese and Dan Lanning

Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi; Choir: Handbell Choir

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 AM Sunday School/Refreshments for congregation hosted by Roots
- 3:00 PM Huron Valley Lutheran High School Christmas Concert
- Monday - 6:00 PM Youth Catechism
- Wednesday - 8:30 AM Bible Class
- Thursday - 7:00 PM Senior Choir rehearsal
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 Bible Class/Sunday School
- Monday - 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Carol Festival Service
- 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Divine Service
- Tuesday - 10:00 AM Christmas Day Divine Service

Serving next week:

Altar Guild – Dec. 23 9:30 AM: Mimi Barber
Dec. 24 11:00 PM: Lois Bude;
Dec. 25 10:00 AM: Thea Bude

Ushering: Dec. 23 9:30 AM: Team 3;
Dec. 24 7:00 PM: Team 4
Dec. 24 11:00 PM: Team 1;
Dec. 25 10:00 AM: Team 2

Roots Montessorri is hosting a get together with refreshments following our service today (approximately 10:45 AM)
Please join us in the gymnasium.

Please join us for the Huron Valley Lutheran High School Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 PM

33740 Cowan Road, Westland

Music selections will be presented by:

HVL Choir

Hawk Singers

WELS Concert Band of Southeast Michigan

(A freewill offering will be taken to support the music programs at HVL.)

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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Rebecca Lohrmann, Director
Michigan Lutheran Seminary
(Saginaw) 989-793-1041
Huron Valley Lutheran High School
(Westland) 734-525-0160

Congregation Chairman:
open
Vice Chairman: Bruce Winkler
Secretary: Ron Bude
Treasurer: Steve Jacobi
Financial Secretary:
Seth Anderson
Curtis Krallman
Board Chairmen:
Elders: Jim Cutler
Trustees: Dave Sylvester
Stewardship/Education:
Richard Cording

*Do you enjoy singing
Christmas carols?*



*Join us for a Christmas Eve
Carol Festival Service*

Monday, 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

