

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



*December 24*  
*Christmas Eve Divine Service*

## THE COMMON SERVICE (page 15)

**OPENING HYMN: #90** “The People That in Darkness Sat”

**STAND**

**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*)

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.



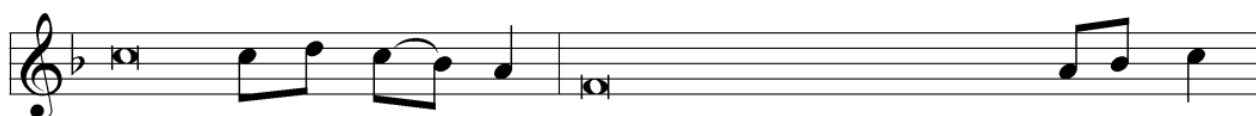
**C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



**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**



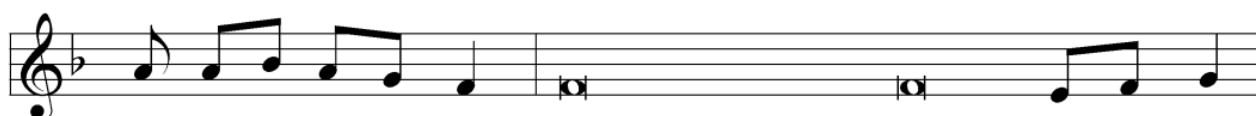
**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**



**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.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only 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 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 96

The congregation will sing Hymn #34 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice.”

## SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

## VERSE OF THE DAY (spoken by pastor)

Alleluia! Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia! (Luke 2:11)

### STAND

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



## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20** (King James Version)

**2** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

<sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

<sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

<sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

<sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



## **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: #37 “Once Again My Heart  
Rejoices”**

**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**

**STAND**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

**C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. 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**

### **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, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (*Sanctus*)

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.



## 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:

#54 “Where Shepherds Lately Kneled”

**STAND**

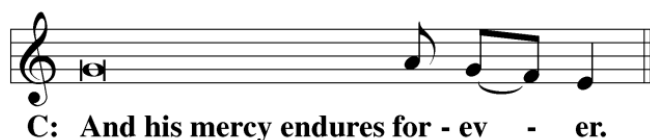
## THANKSGIVING (page 24)

### 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.

**M:** 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.



**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.



## **CLOSING HYMN: #60 “Silent Night! Holy Night”**

*During the singing of “Silent Night,” the ushers will light the candles you have been given. They will give the flame to the person on each end of each pew. Please pass the flame to the person next to you. The sanctuary lights will be dimmed during this time. Please hold the lighted candle during the singing of “Silent Night”. (See below for text.) Extinguish the candle before you leave the pew.*

1 Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

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### **OFFICIANTS:**

Preacher and Celebrant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Communion Assistant: Ron Bude

Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi;