

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 2nd Sunday of Christmas, January 4, 2025

In-Person Worship: St Peter at 9:00 am

Facebook Live, 9:00 a.m. at "St Peter Lutheran Church"

You Tube (Live) at "St Peters Lutheran Church Rockwell, IA"

Church Office: 641-822-3101 Email: stpeter@netins.net

Lay Minister Jason Grunklee: 641-990-9328 (call or text)

Email: grunklee0@gmail.com

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.


☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!


Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #300 "The First Noel"

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

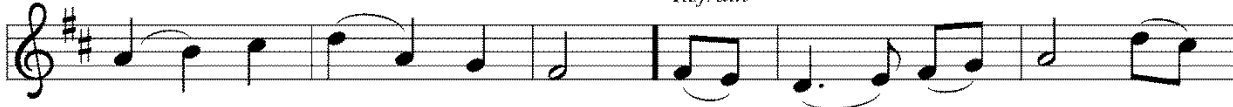


cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered




they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Greeting (ELW p. 213)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Cantic of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command ¹ to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of life. Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation (Please Stand)

Tune is Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia. Lord to who-m shall we go?

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia

You have words of e-tern-al life.

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia. Worship Christ our Lord and King!

Gospel: John 1: [1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #511 Thy Strong Word"

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; at thy
 2 Lo. on those who dwelt in dark-ness; dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be-speaks us righ-teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis-dom shin-ing break-eth

speak-ing it was done. For cre-at-ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal-
 thine own ho-li-ness, glo-rious now, we press toward
 forth in con-qu'ring might; from the cross for-ev-er

thank thee, while thine or-dered sea-sons run.
 va-tion, breathed thine own life-breath-ing
 glo-ry, and our lives our hopes con-fess.
 beam-eth all thy bright re-deem-ing light.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia with-out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
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(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers:

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. (*Response to the petition.* "Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**"

"Lord, Listen to" Your Children Praying" ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your spirit to this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

(Leader will lead you in prayer, then sing again.)

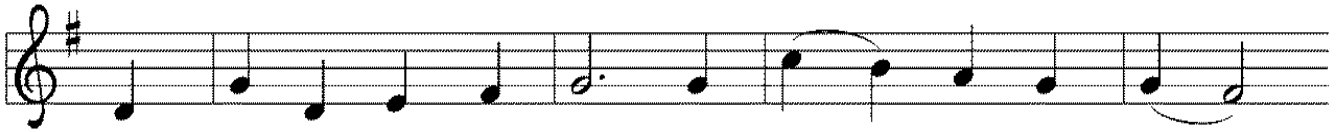
Please remember in your prayers: Christine Foell, Mona Arends, Jo Thomas, Jenn Butler, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Lorna Thompson, Wendell & Dawn Thomas, Audrey Harder, Kathleen Hansen, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet and Kevin Hoftiezer, Joan Petersen, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Seneca Echelberger, Jill Watters, Renee Dahlen, Diane Sterns and all who are homebound or hospitalized.

"Please turn and greet your neighbor."

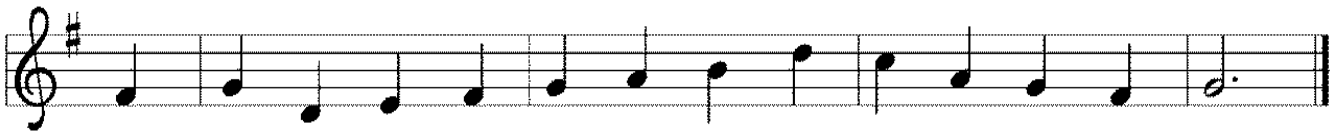
Offering

The Offertory: (Please Stand) #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We Give Thee but Thine Own



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
- 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
- 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
- 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

Offering Prayer

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Blessing

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,

✙ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #281 Silent Night"

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



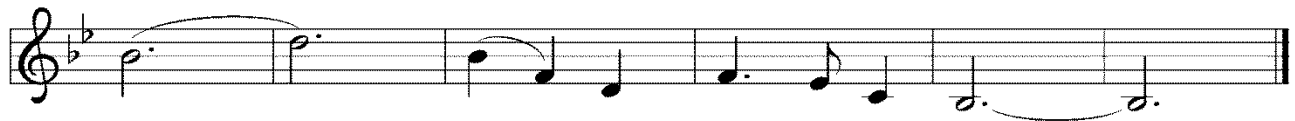
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHERS FOR JANUARY

Shane Heft, Tyler, Layton and Huston Christopherson & Families

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Dave & Christy Meinders

COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR JANUARY

Christy Meinders

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

Avery Kothenbeutel & Allee Butler

The annual meeting will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, January 18, 2025.

Sunday School News:

- **We will not have Sunday School** on the following dates:
 - Sunday January 4
 - Sunday January 18

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am Worship Service NO Coffee NO Sunday School NO Confirmation
Tuesday, January 6 th	9:00 Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, January 7 th	5:30 pm Fellowship Games
Saturday, January 10 th	7:30 am Men's breakfast
Sunday, January, 11 th	9:00 am Worship Service NO Communion 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation 10:00 am Coffee