

## **Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church**

The 1st Sunday of Advent

Affirmation of Baptism

November 23, 2025 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](mailto:stpeter@netins.net)

### **Confession and Forgiveness (Please Stand)**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us. Help us to live in your light and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name.**

**Amen**

We belong to Christ Jesus

and we are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

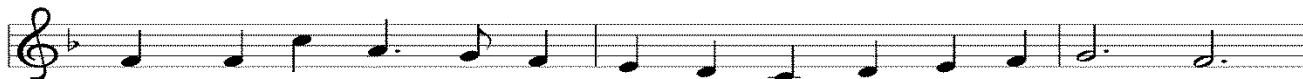
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
our sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation

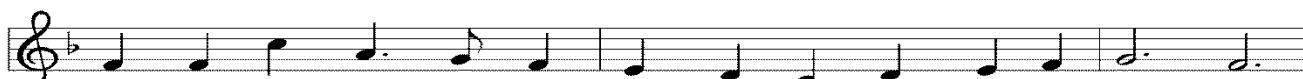
**Amen.**

## Gathering Song: #858: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

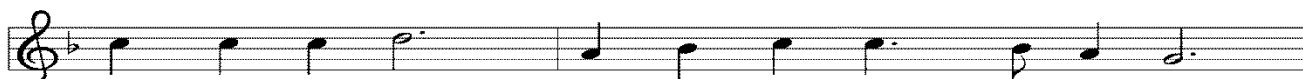
### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



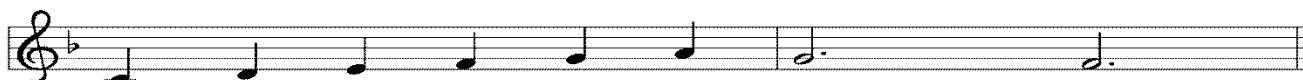
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won-drous-ly reign - ing,  
3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros-pers your work and de - fends you;  
4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.  
Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;  
Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,



Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.  
sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.  
in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.  
glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. composite

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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## Greeting

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

Gracious God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sin and have raised us to the new life of grace. We thank you for this affirmation of our baptism, for the community of faith that upholds us, and for the gifts of your Spirit that continue to guide us. Help us to always remember the promises made in

our name. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to live out your love, to seek and serve Christ in all people, and to stand for justice and peace. May we always walk in the light of faith, renewed in your image and serving you with joyful hearts. We pray this in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 8:1-21

*Genesis 6 describes God saving Noah and his family through water. The New Testament letter of 1 Peter connects this event to baptism, stating that the water of the flood symbolizes the saving power of baptism.*

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth, and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the

earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of humans, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM:** Psalm 96: 1-3, 11-13

*This psalm is often used for its comforting imagery of the Lord as a shepherd providing guidance and peace.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;

**I shall not want.**

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;

**He leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

**I fear no evil, for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

**SONG:** #798: Will You Come and Follow Me

Verses 1, 4, 5

**Affirmation (Remembrance) of Baptism**

*Today, we remember our own baptisms and thank God for the gift we received that day. Today is not a baptism, but a remembrance of our own baptism. Similar to renewing wedding vows, we remember and redeclare our promises made that day.*

## **PRESENTATION:**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God

to make public affirmations of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH:**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **AFFIRMATION:**

You have made public professions of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

*The congregation will be invited forward, place a finger in the baptismal font and make the sign of the Cross on your forehead, in remembrance of the day you were baptized.*

**SONG OF THE DAY: #660: Lift High the Cross**

**Lift High the Cross**

The musical score is written on four staves. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The third staff contains four numbered verses of lyrics. The fourth staff contains the refrain melody with its lyrics. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C).

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*  
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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(Please Stand)

**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: "God of mercy. Hear our prayer.")

**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 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"

**Offering Prayer**

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.  
Amen.

Let us, as once voice, pray the prayer that Jesus taught.

**The Lord's Prayer:** "Our Father, who art in heaven..."

**Blessing**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.  
Amen.

## Sending Song: #543: Go My Children, with My Blessing

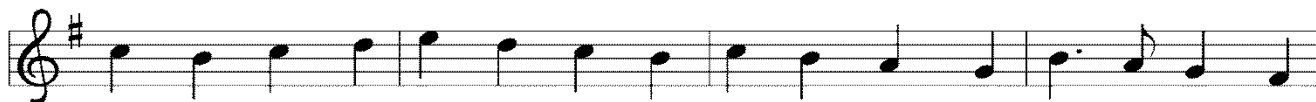
### Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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## Dismissal

Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

Mike Echelberger, Todd Liekweg, Gary Sturges & Families

### **GREETERS FOR DECEMBER**

Jay & Carla Thompson

### **COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER**

Todd Liekweg

### **ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER**

Lane & Liam Sturges

**Friendship plates** will be made Saturday, December 6th:

Chairperson: Lana Schaefer, Co-Chairperson: Cheryl Flatness

**Committee members:** Wendy Jorgensen, Jeanette Sturges, Tracy Madden, Angie Twedt, Traci Hansen, Becky Dhondt, Linda Corporon, Holly Hess, Barb Grunklee, Andrea Engh, Josie Baxter, Britney Fjone, Dawn Liekweg, Michelle Martinez, Diane Dodd, Chelsey Morrison and Kristen Engels. If there are others that would like to contribute that would be awesome.

(The committee members need to bring 2 dozen individually wrapped candy, cookies, bars, snacks, etc. In addition to providing goodies the committee members will help fill friendship plates and then deliver them. Part of the expectation for delivering the plates is that you plan to stay and visit with the recipients. These friends were once active members of our church but now are in the nursing home or home bound with few visits from our church family. This is an important part of the outreach from our church. If you have questions please call your chairperson.)

**Open house 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration** for Shirley Meinders will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1to 4pm at Apple Valley Assisted living in Clear Lake.

**Memory Tree Ornaments** will be sold starting Sunday, November 30th. They are \$5 each and the money is used to buy Christmas presents for the residents of the Rockwell Nursing Home. Thank you!

**There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex** for ushers, greeters, and communion committees for the upcoming year 2025. This is your opportunity to volunteer or choose when you would like to help with one of these committees.

## **A Holiday Meal**

**With the holiday's fast approaching** the Mission's Committee is asking for your help with collecting food for a holiday meal. We will start collecting food items on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We will have a holiday table set up

in the Narthex to collect all donated food items. All donations will go to the West Fork Food Bank in Sheffield. Suggested food items are: Canned corn, green beans, carrots, cream of mushroom, chicken or celery soup, french onions, bag or boxed potatoes, gravy, jello, cranberries, pumpkin, apple, blueberry pie filling, cake or brownie mixes. We would like to thank you in advance for all your donations. The Mission's Committee

### **Share The Warmth!**

No sign-up, no judgment, just kindness. Please take what you need!

#### **How You Can Help:**

Donate gently used or new winter items (Any knitters or crocheters in the house? Got that new coat last year that is outgrown this year? Out of style hats?)

Hang donations on the provided clotheslines

Share with friends and neighbors in our community....SPREAD THE WORD!!!!!!

Donate money to purchase items (see how to below)

#### **How You Can Receive:**

See something you need? Please take it, it's yours!!

#### **Locations:**

Thornton City Park Pavilion  
(corner of Main St and 5th St)

Sheffield City Park Pavilion  
(corner of 5th St and Gilman St)

Leave What You Can... Take What You Need

Cold weather is here - let's help each other stay warm! We're collecting coats, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, boots, and more for our neighbors in need

St Peter Church Parsonage, Rockwell  
(corner of Madison St E and 2nd St S)

#### **Times Available:**

Starting Nov 9 - Open 24/7 (bad weather may result in it coming down until weather passes). Come at any time you feel comfortable.

Together we can keep our community warm this winter!  
 Please contact Lay Minister Jason Grunklee, St Peter Lutheran Church,  
 Rockwell with questions or to make a monetary donation.  
 641-822-3101, stpeter@netins.net or grunklee0@gmail.com

### **Sunday School News:**

**Today Sunday School will be kicking off** the Holiday Season on from 11-1pm

We will provide lunch

Sunday School students will be able to:

Put up the Christmas Tree (in the Sunday School area)

Decorate Cookies

Make a gift for their parents

Get in the Holiday spirit

If your student is in 3 or 4-year-old preschool, we would appreciate a parent/guardian staying to help out (we will figure out the gift-making portion)

**The Christmas Program** will be held during the 9 am church service on December 21, 2025.

Sunday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee <b>NO</b> Sunday School 10:00-10:45 Confirmation
Tuesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am Quilter's 1:30 pm St Peter Circle 6:30 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30 pm Fellowship Games
Sunday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee 10:00 -11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Confirmation