

# Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 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, <sup>☩</sup> 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.

<sup>☩</sup> Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

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

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

## 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

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Canticle 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:** Isaiah 63:7-9

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"  
and he became their savior  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

## **PSALM:** Psalm 148

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
    praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
    sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,**  
**and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
    who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
    you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful  
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18**

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.  
<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,  
 "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
 in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."  
<sup>13</sup> And again,  
 "I will put my trust in him."  
 And again,  
 "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."  
<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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:** Matthew 2:13-23

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

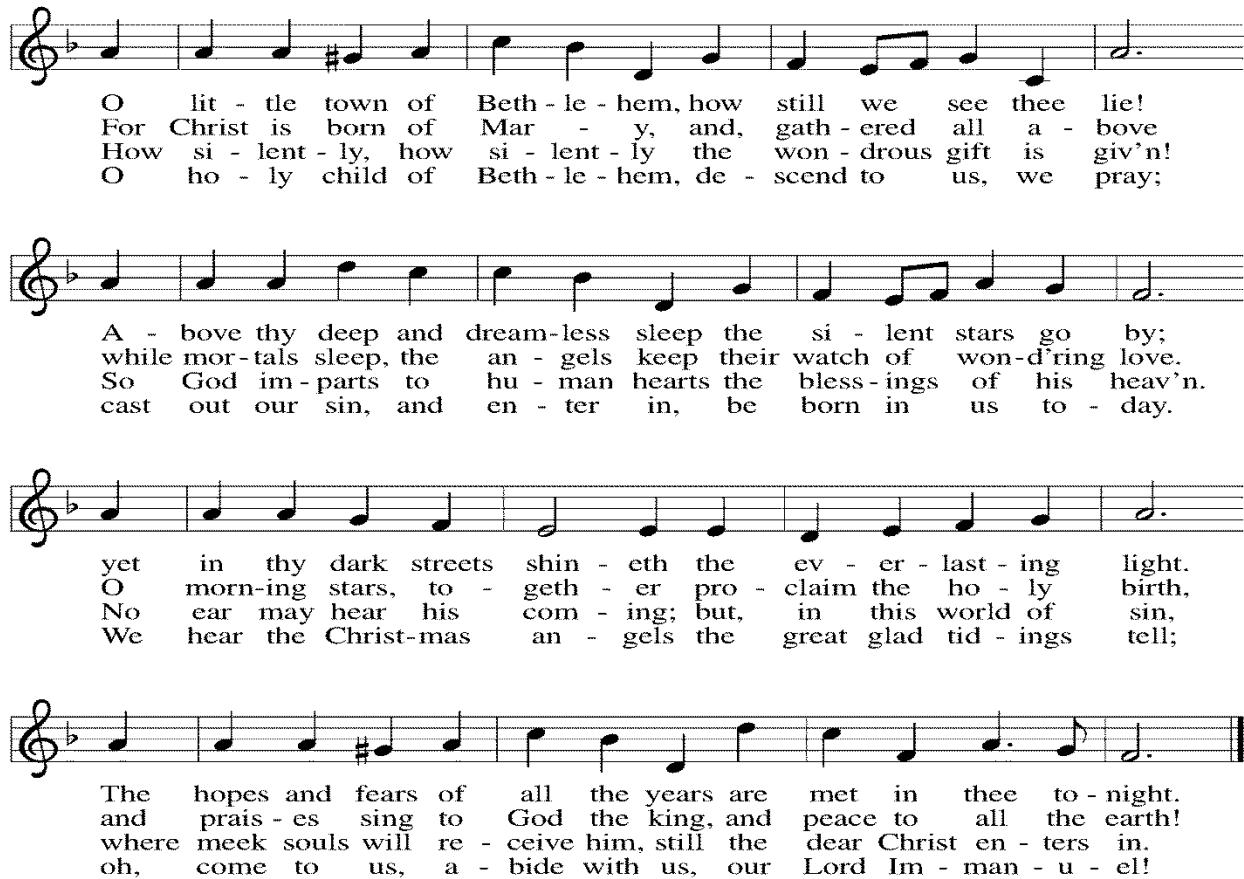
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

### **Children's Sermon**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** ELW #279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night,  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

(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.)*

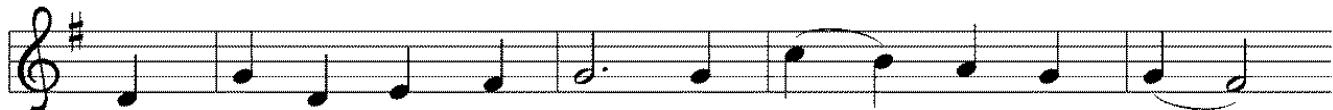
**Please remember in your prayers:** Christine Foell, Mona Arends, Jo Thomas, Jenn Butler, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Lorna Thompson, Wendell & Dawn Thomas, Audrey Harder, Kathleen Hansen, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet and Kevin Hoftiezer, Joan Petersen, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Seneca Echelberger, Jill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

"Please turn and greet your neighbor."

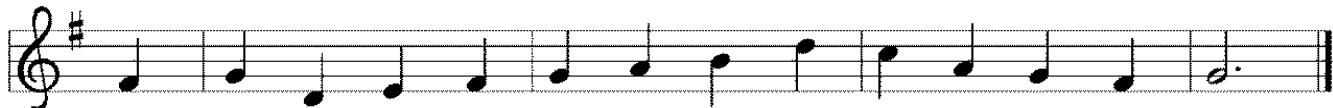
## Offering

**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.**

## **Holy Communion**

**Words of Institution:** “In the night in which he was betrayed...“

**The Lord’s Prayer:** “Our Father, who art in heaven...”

## **Communion Distribution (Please be seated)**

### **Prayer after Communion (Please stand)**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn ELW #270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

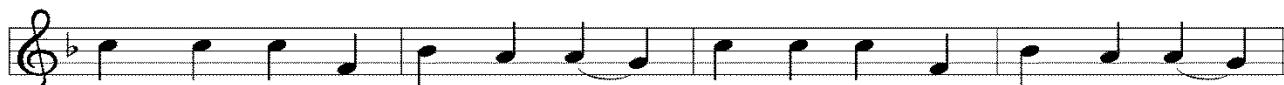
## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



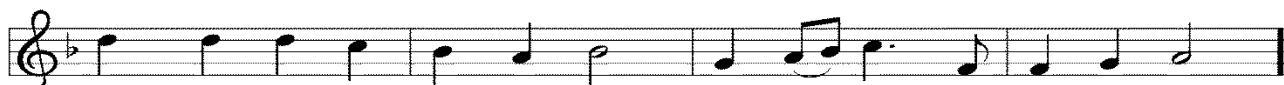
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"'  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"'

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

## 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.**

Church Streaming & Podcast License, size C (200-499), #CSPL071564 expiration date 6/30/2026  
Church Copyright License, Size C (200-499), #11231032 expiration date 6/30/2026

## 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**

## **For St. Peter Lutheran Church Congregation**

**Today, Sunday, Dec. 28th at 3:30pm** at Windsor Theater in Hampton

All members, young and old, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Bring a friend (they do not have to be a member).

The St. Peter Church Missions Committee is sponsoring this event and covering ticket cost. Concessions will be open and available for purchase. Join us for a great afternoon!

**See attachment for additional information!**



**Today the congregations of Our Saviour's and St Paul will be honoring Pastor Jane Harris on her retirement from the ministry on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> during 9:30 worship and you are invited to join us. We will also be livestreaming the service on Our Saviour's facebook page. There will be a dinner and a short program to follow. We suspect she impacted your congregations just as she has impacted ours and that you might like to be part of the celebration. If you are unable to join us but would like to send and a card, please send it to: Pastor Jane Harris**

% Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
2502 S Jefferson Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401

**This morning is your LAST CHANCE to sign-up for ushers, greeters, acolytes and communion committees for the upcoming year 2026. This is your opportunity to volunteer or choose when you would like to help with one of these committees.**

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

**See attachment for Memory Tree information**

## Sunday School News:

- **We will not have Sunday School** on the following dates:
  - Sunday December 28
  - Sunday January 4
  - Sunday January 18

## Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Coffee <b>NO Sunday School</b> <b>NO Confirmation</b>
Tuesday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Sunday, January, 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service <b>NO Sunday School</b> <b>NO Confirmation</b> <b>NO Coffee</b>