

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting**

**and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

[☩] You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #438 “My Lord, What a Morning”

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,
my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

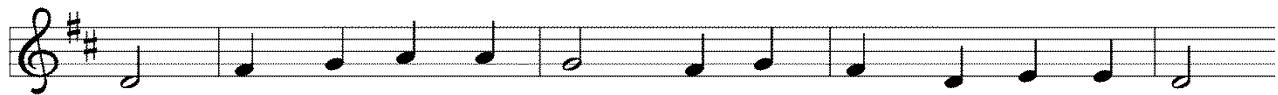
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #241 “O Lord How Shall I Meet You”

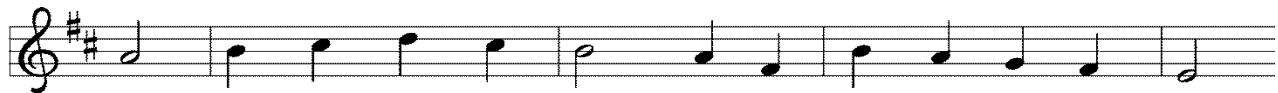
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



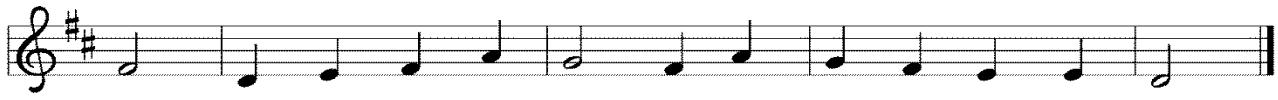
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

(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.**

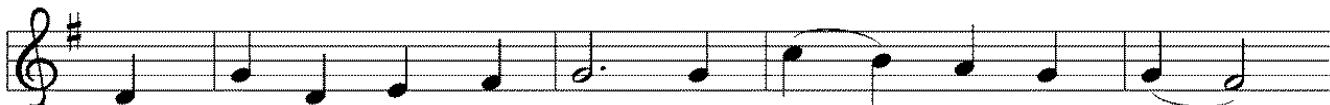
(Leader will lead you in prayer, then sing again.)

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, Jill Watters, Renee Dahlen, Seneca Echelberger and all who are homebound or hospitalized.

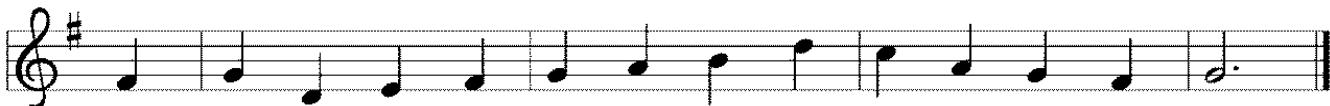
Offering

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

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught;

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.

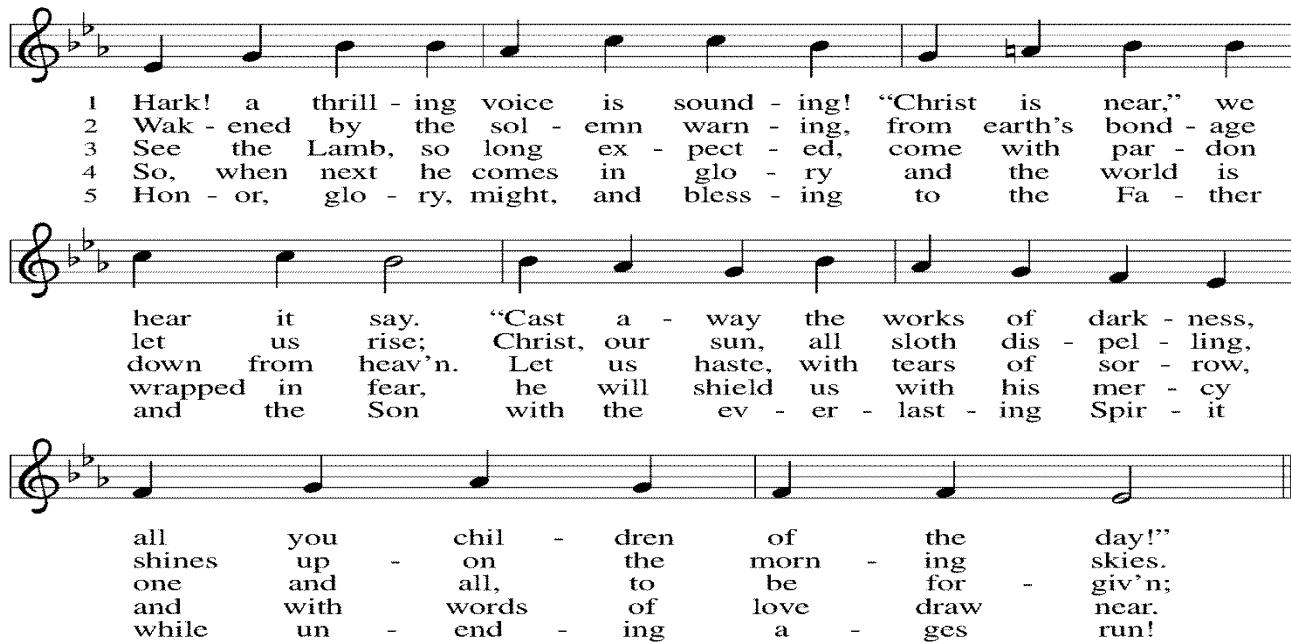
Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn #246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther

hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it

all you chil - dren of morn - ing the day!"
shines up - on the to be love a - ing skies.
one and all, of of a - ing giv' n;
and with words ing draw ges near.
while un - end - ing run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

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

With Deepest Sympathy and prayers to Scott & Diane Dodd of the passing of their son Jon.

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!

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 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)

St Peter Church Parsonage, Rockwell

(corner of Madison St E and 2nd St S)

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.

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

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.

Sunday School News:

- **The teachers would first** like to say how amazing and awesome it is to see the kids come week after week to Sunday [School](#). We want to thank the parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles for bringing them each week. We hope that they are enjoying our time as much as the teachers are. One thing that we would like everyone to keep in mind is that our Sunday School program is for kids aged 3 to 6th grade. There is talk of having a nursery class for 2 and 3-year-olds, but that is in its planning stages. We would need a teacher for the new class. For now, we are sticking with our current program of 3-year-olds to 6th graders, but we are excited for the opportunity to grow.
- **The Sunday School Christmas Program** will be held on Sunday, December 21, during the 9 am church service
- **We will not have Sunday School** on the following dates:
 - Sunday December 21
 - Sunday December 28
 - Sunday January 5

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 7 th	9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee NO Sunday School (Kick off the holiday season from 11:00am to 1:00pm) 10:00-10:45 Confirmation
Tuesday, December 9 th	9:00 am Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, December 10 th	5:30 pm Council Meeting
Saturday, December 13 th	7:30 am Men's Breakfast
Sunday, December 14 th	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Coffee 10:00 -11:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Confirmation