



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
December 13, 2020

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
1600 S. Main St.  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235  
www.stpetersfdl.net

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 am  
School/Church Office: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier: 517-8808      Pastor Matthew M. Guse: 517-9000

For hospital visits or emergencies, please call Pastor Zuberbier at 517-8808

Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal    921-4930 ext. 304

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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** Rejoice in the Lord always!

*Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or a pastor.*

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- Visitors, we are pleased that you have joined us this morning. Please feel free to inquire about our congregation through the pastors, one of the ushers, or one of the members. If you are a visitor from out of town, please be sure to introduce yourself to one of the pastors after the service. We welcome all of you to come and worship with us again.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my Hope, my heart's Delight. O Jesus, let your word be a lamp to light my way, to show me how to please you, to guide me every day. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling that led you to embrace in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race! Amen.

**SERVICE THEME** Rejoice! Our Advent King is coming!

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*These sentences will be spoken and the Advent candles lit immediately following the tolling of the bell at the beginning of the service.*

### Advent 3

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

**C: We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

**C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our confidence and joy.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Three Advent candles (the Prophecy, the Bethlehem, and the Angel candles) are lit. The service continues with the opening hymn.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Service of the Word*

### OPENING HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | CW 7 v 1, 2, 4*

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.

Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,  
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.  
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: (spoken) And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: (spoken) Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### SONG OF PRAISE

*Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring | CW 26 v 3*

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (spoken) Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### A LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 4:1-6

*Over four centuries before Jesus' arrival, Malachi foretold that John the Baptist (Elijah) would prepare the hearts of the people for the Advent of their King.*

Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day which will not leave behind a root or branch for them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I dictated to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Look! I am sending Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the LORD comes! <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I would come and strike the land with complete destruction.

### VERSE OF THE DAY

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### A LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*The apostle Paul gives us an inventory of the jewels that are to adorn our lives as we await the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always. <sup>17</sup>Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup>In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup>Do not extinguish the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not treat prophecies with contempt. <sup>21</sup>But test everything. Hold on to the good. <sup>22</sup>Keep away from every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | CW 23 v 1, 2, 4

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

## GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, John the Baptist came to testify concerning the Light of the World, the Coming One.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

<sup>22</sup>Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

<sup>24</sup>They had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup>"I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup>These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## Rejoice: The Son is coming!

1. Marvel at his mercy
2. Marvel at his glory

*Pastor Guse*

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## HYMN

*The King Shall Come | CW 25 v 1, 4, 5*

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes-

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **(spoken) Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **(spoken) Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng | CW 540 v 1, 3, 5*

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth  
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, Sweet music, noblest mirth. *Refrain*

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their homes at last, Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

## ORGANIST

David Koepsell

## GREETERS

7:45 ~ Warren & Mary Demmon

10:30 ~ Jim & Marcia Pflum

## Weekly Announcements

**FORWARD IN CHRIST** The December Forward in Christ is available in the narthex along with the current meditations.

**MEMORIALS** Family and friends of Tom Deibert have given special gifts to the General Fund, Youth Fund, and WELS World Missions in his memory.

**DIVINE CALL** Dear Fellow Members of St. Peter's: This past week I received a divine Call from David's Star Lutheran Church and School in Jackson, WI to serve as the fourth grade teacher and technology director. I ask for your prayers as I deliberate the call to David's Star and the call I have here at St. Peter's so that the Lord's will may be done. Yours in Christ, Michael J. Hinds.

Pastor Guse has also accepted his call to Northdale Lutheran Church in Tampa, FL. We pray the Lord continue to bless Pastor, Liz and their family.

**SPREAD SOME SON-SHINE** Our members in care facilities are unable to have visitors due to the pandemic. We would like to send some cards to two each week to let them know we are thinking of them. Please help us brighten their days!

~Dorothy Wollerman W4680 Golf Course Dr. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	~Ted Gantner 229 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> St Fond du Lac, WI 54935
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**OPEN FORUM** We will have an open forum after each service on Thursday, December 10 and Sunday, December 13 regarding the 2021 budget.

**DIVINE CALL MEETING** Last Sunday we called Mr. Mark Kutz to be our sixth grade teacher and principal. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates this call. Mrs. Sarah Welsing will finish out the school year teaching first grade. What a blessing! We will have a Divine Call Meeting January 3 after the second service.

**SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS** Because of the vacancy and the effect that COVID-19 has had on Sunday Bible Class, we will no longer meet until the appropriate time presents itself. We will continue to have Wednesday Bible Class at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Please consider attending. We will continue to have Public School Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings at 9:00. Adult Information Class will continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES** will be held Thursday, December 31 at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:45 and 10:30 am. All three services will be the same.

**MEN OF HIS WORD** Oshkosh Conference has been cancelled for 2021 due to the uncertainties concerning the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. If anyone has already registered, they will be contacted with regard to a refund of the registration fees. Please watch for some alternative opportunities for growth and encouragement coming in the near future.

### *Last Week's Stewardship*

Worship: 142 + 94 + 164 = 400	Communed: 111 + 66 + 110 = 287
Midweek Bible Class: 12 + 7 = 19	Bible Class: 9

### *First Fruits to the Lord 2020:*

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Thank offerings in support of the unified budget	\$32,386.85	
Other receipts in support of the unified budget	2,625.00	
Total receipts in support of the unified budget	35,011.85	\$1,359,062.43
Requirement to support proposed unified budget	31,127.02	1,525,223.98
Overage (Shortfall)	3,884.83	(166,161.95)
Improvement Fund	145.00	
WLA Forward in Trust	60.00	
Honoring the Lord!	983.00	

### *Daily Bible Readings*

12/13 Isaiah 5	12/17 Isaiah 10:5-34
12/14 Isaiah 6	12/18 Isaiah 11, 12
12/15 Isaiah 7:1-8:15	12/19 Isaiah 13:1-14:23
12/16 Isaiah 8:16-10:4	

*This Week at St. Peter's*  
[www.stpetersfdl.net/calendar](http://www.stpetersfdl.net/calendar)

MONDAY	3:15 pm	Faculty Meeting
	6:00 pm	School Board Meeting
TUESDAY	6:00 pm	Board of Outreach
	6:30 pm	Board of Elders
	6:30 pm	Board of Properties
WEDNESDAY	10:00 am	Bible Class
	6:30 pm	Bible Class
	7:00 pm	Communicating Christ
THURSDAY	5:30 pm	Board of Youth Discipleship
	6:30 pm	Worship with the Lord's Supper
NEXT SUNDAY	7:45 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper
	9:00 am	Public School Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship with the Lord's Supper