

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
Phone: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier: 517-8808 Pastor Luke Boehringer: 579-8150
For hospital visits or emergencies, please call Pastor Zuberbier at 517-8808.
St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Benjamin J. Raddatz, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302
Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE May God's Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to welcome our newborn King!

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.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 each Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
- Hymns and songs are reprinted under OneLicense #A-713891. Artwork obtained from churchart.com. Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright ©2018 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.
- Visitors, we are pleased that you have joined us this morning. Please fill out a Visitor Card and hand it to an usher. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason, we respectfully request that all of those who are not members of the WELS or our sister ELS please speak with one of the pastors before communing with us. Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Lord abide! Oh, enter with your saving grace; show me your kind and friendly face. Your Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame we offer to your name. Amen. *(See also the prayers on pages 10-11 of Christian Worship.)*

SERVICE THEME The Lord is coming. Prepare the way before him.

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 2

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: **We remember Jesus who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

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

OPENING HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | CW 13 v 1-2

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying, A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places Where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Christians, you bring good tidings; Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish; Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations Shall pass like a dream away.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP *The Common Service on page 15 in the front of the hymnal*

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord; let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

 ♪ **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.**
 Lord, have mercy on us.

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

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

SONG OF PRAISE *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | CW 13 v 3*

But the Word of our God is eternal; The arm of the Lord is strong.
 He stands in the midst of the nations, And he shall right the wrong.
 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, The lambs shall gently hold,
 To pastures of peace shall lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

 Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

Malachi foretold the coming of John the Baptist who would prepare the way for the Lord.

 Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

At the time of his second Advent (Coming) God will reveal whose hearts are prepared.

 This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. ²In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. ⁴I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. ⁵Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
 All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia!

C: ♪ **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL (SERMON TEXT)

Luke 3:1-6

In fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord.

M: The gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 3.

C: ♪ **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

⁶And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Praise be to you, O Christ!****NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | CW 16***“The Word of God Came to John”***Pastor Boehringer*

1. In the womb.
2. In the wilderness.

♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING**SPLS BELLS IN 10:30 SERVICE***“O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel”***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****THE LORD'S PRAYER****THE SACRAMENT**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Comfort, Comfort All My People | CW 11
Arise, O Christian People | CW 14 v 1-3*

SONG OF SIMEON

♪ **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: ♪ **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

M: 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: ♪ **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People | CW 14 v 4

**Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.**



ORGANIST
David Koepsell

GREETERS
7:45 ~ Warren & Mary Demmon
10:30 ~ Sue Repp