

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.
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- 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 Lord, may this year to me be holy; your grace so fill my every thought, that all my life be pure and lowly and truthful, as a Christian's ought. So make me while I'm living here your faithful servant through the year. Amen. (See also the prayers on pages 10-11 of *Christian Worship*.)

SERVICE THEME Along with the Church in heaven and on earth, we praise God for sending great King David's greater Son – the King of kings and Lord of lords – Jesus Christ.

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

OPENING HYMN *To Shepherds as They Watched by Night* | **CW 53**

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.

GLORY BE TO GOD

♪ **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King,
God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; 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

2 Samuel 7:18-16

Through the prophet Nathan, the LORD promised King David that one of his Offspring would be the Everlasting King – Jesus Christ.

⁸You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. ¹⁰I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as

they did at the beginning ¹¹and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. ¹²When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

Christ has freed us from slavery and made us God's children and heirs.

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba, Father!*” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Alleluia!

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

GOSPEL (SERMON TEXT)

Luke 1:68-75

By the Holy Spirit's inspiration Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, praised God for fulfilling his promise to King David. This “Song of Zechariah” is called the “Benedictus” which is its first word in the Latin version: “Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel”.

M: The gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 1.

C: ♪ **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

⁶⁸Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.

⁷¹He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,
⁷²in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,
⁷⁴to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,
so that we are able to serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | CW 38 v 1-3

“Zechariah Sang of Future Things Already Done”

Pastor Boehringer

♪ 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

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, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

♪ 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 HYMN *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* | CW 38 v 4-15

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: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

BLESSING

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

Blest Be the God of Israel | CW 275



ORGANIST

Brent Nolte

GREETERS

7:45 ~ Ken & Jo Wendorff
10:30 ~ Joe & Nancy Birkholz