



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 17, 2023



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word

1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Guest Preacher Pastor James Borgwardt

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304

Emergency Contact: Pastor Dan Schmidt (920) 238-0541

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302

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 the pastor.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 or FM 100.7 Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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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 **please speak with the pastor before communing** with us. Thank you.

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Setting Two | 172-187



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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

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.

OPENING HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | 324 v. 1-2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together into one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.

My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.
With a robe of righteousness, he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

¹¹For as the earth produces its growth,
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
in the presence of all the nations.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.

Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²²Keep away from every kind of evil. ²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come to us, Em / manuel
Come and set your / people free.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist teaches the infinite superiority of Christ Jesus. John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.

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

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

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²²Then 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?"

²³He 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."

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

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

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | 324 v. 3-5

“The Give and Take of the Messiah’s Mission”

Pastor James Borgwardt

NICENE CREED & PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pages 180-182

GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pages 183-187

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

As Angels Joyed with One Accord | 320

When All the World was Cursed | 317

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

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CLOSING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | 315



ORGANIST

Erin Achey

GREETERS

8:00~Marv & Vicki Mortensen

10:30~Jane Fell