Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

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PRELUDE & BELLS We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.

WELCOME congregation responds and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We stand OPENING HYMN #257

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

vv 1, 3-6

BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS₽

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ♥ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

O God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have grievously sinned against you in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which we cannot fully understand, but which are known to you. We repent and are sorry for our offenses, and we ask of your great goodness to have mercy upon us, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive our sins, and graciously to help our infirmities. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on you, and has given his only son to die for you, and for his sake 4 forgives you all your sins. To all who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on you his Holy Spirit. On the other hand, I declare to the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God has not forgiven your sins, and will surely visit your iniquities upon you if you do not turn from your sinful ways and come to repentance and faith in Christ before the day of grace is ended.¹ Amen. ¹Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, Introductory Edition (Minneapolis: Bronze Bow Publishing, 2006)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Jesus Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Acolyte lights four candles.

¥HOLY COMMUNION**¥**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: LUKE 1:38 Here I am, the servant of the LORD, let it be with me according to your word.

We sit First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." 4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: LUKE 1:45B-55

⁴⁶My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

⁵¹He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

⁵²He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

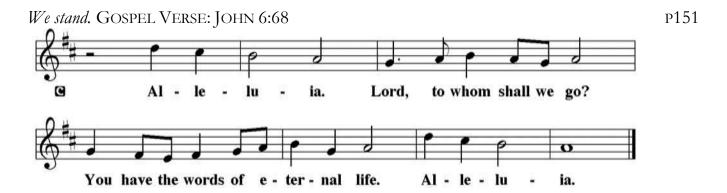
⁵⁴He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and to his children forever.

SECOND READING ROMANS 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!



GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1:26-38

Glory to You, O Lord.

Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

#260 "The King Shall Come"

vv1-4

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Love in the Ruins
No Castle or Throne

We stand. PROFESSION OF FAITH Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

*means whole, entire Christian

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us come before the throne of grace with our prayers and petitions. *A brief silence*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, that the Church, your people Israel, and the whole world may rejoice in the splendor of your appearing.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, fill the Church with your Spirit. Sustain and order its proclamation and its works of charity, especially in the presence of its enemies, according to your most holy will. Come, and teach us prudence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Emmanuel, the ransom of your people Israel: deliver also your persecuted Church from torment. Keep it patient, faithful, and steadfast. Help us to honor their witness and provide for their needs. Turn their tormentors from their evil ways. Come; and teach them courage.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Adonai, ruler of the House of Israel, rule also in the hearts and lives of your people in this congregation. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism. Give us your Word and show us your glory. Come; and make our hearts glad.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Bright and Morning Star, you gladden the hearts of those who sit in darkness. Shine upon all who are overwhelmed by grief, despair, doubt, anger, confusion, hatred, or unbelief. Come; and lead them into the brightness of your holy love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, unite all people under your glorious and gentle reign. Teach us those things that make for peace. Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign before the peoples. Guard and guide all who stand in harm's way in defense of justice and freedom. Come quickly, and deliver them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Key of David, you open what no one can close; you close what no one can open. Free those imprisoned by the powers of sin, evil, and death, including {LIST}. Come, and close the path to misery.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Dayspring, splendor of life everlasting, keep safe in your mighty arms all those who died trusting in your promises. We pray especially for the families of {List}. Come and enlighten us, who still sit in the shadow of death; and open wide our heavenly home.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Graciously answer our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.** We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."

We sit. Offering, Offertory Song & Prayer- Giving back to God



First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts.

Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website stpeterhallettsville.org/giving or by scanning this code.

We stand #284

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

v3 only

3 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can give him--give my heart.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy...

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

All honor and glory are yours...now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

We sit. Invitation To Communion

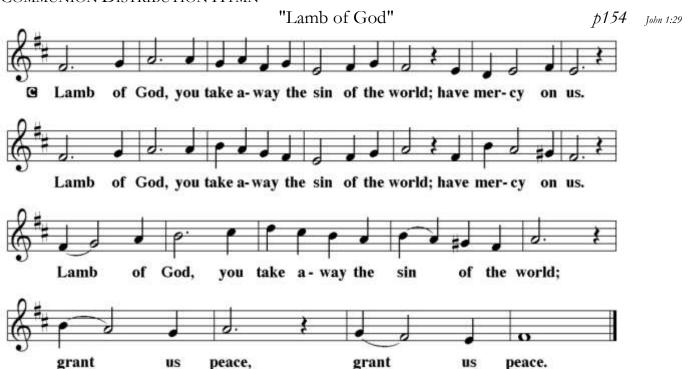
The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.

(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)

Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN



We stand POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

#295 Of the Father's Love Begotten vv 1, 4

1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Let us pray... Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**Silence is kept for reflection.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and \$\mathbb{A}\$ give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #266

"All Earth is Hopeful"

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 North Promenade, Hallettsville, Texas 77964 (361) 798-2808 www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church" by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, Dec 31st Lessons & Carols Service @ 9:00 am. No 5:00 pm Service

Offering YTD (Nov): \$257, 766.70 Expenses: \$238,466.45; DIFFERENCE +\$19,300.25

Attendance

Sunday, Dec 17 AM /PM 7

Openings for:

Flowers: Dec 31

Serving This Weekend Dec 24th

Sunday AM: Assisting: Cheryl Draper

Communion Set Up: Kari DeForest Communion Clean Up: Ruth Muehr

Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: Wesley McAda, Shannon DeForest, Luther Lorfing, & Aaron Henke

Acolytes: Ariel Muehr & McKenna Patterson

Power Point Sunday: Judy Garmon

Altar Flowers given by: MEMBERS POINSETTIAS

Radio Ministry given by: Leon & Carol Koehne in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ & in memory of Landon Koehne

This Week @ St. Peter

Sun Dec 24, 9:00 am Worship Service, 10:00 am Coffee Time,

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service, 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

Mon Dec 25, 9:00 am Christmas Day Service Merry Christmas!

Tue Dec 26, 7:00 pm Prayer Group

Thu Dec 28, 7:30 pm AA/Al-Anon Meeting

Sun Dec 31, 9:00 am Lessons & Carols Worship Service, No 5:00 pm Service

Serving Sunday, Dec 24th 4:00 pm Christmas Eve:

Assisting: Aileen Peck

Communion Set Up: Kari DeForest

Communion Clean Up/reset up for 11:00 pm: Rida Chovanetz

Organist: Carol Drozd

Ushers: Shannon DeForest and Rida Chovanetz

Acolytes: Julie & Clay Henke Power Point: Kari DeForest

Altar Flowers given by: MEMBERS POINSETTIAS

Serving Sunday, Dec 24th 11:00 pm Christmas Eve:

Assisting: Sophie Teltschik

Communion Set Up: Kari DeForest

Communion Clean Up & Reset Up for 9:00 am: Sophie Teltschik

Organist: Carol Drozd

Ushers: Gary Teltschik and ??

Acolytes: Maggie & John Stillions

Power Point: Donna Stillions

Altar Flowers given by: MEMBERS POINSETTIAS

Serving Monday Dec 25th Christmas Day:

Assisting: Darlene Stacy

Communion Clean Up: Darlene Stacy

Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: ??

Acolytes: Maggie & John Stillions

Power Point: Judy Winfield

Altar Flowers given by: MEMBERS POINSETTIAS

Our Prayer List:— Requests listed 4 weeks under Concerns For unless otherwise requested.

Concerns for: Barbara Tackett, Barbara Grindeland, Carol Koehne, Laken Dawdy, Ronald Lindsey, Louis Laqua, Claudia Williams, Don Williams, Jonathan Brooks, Gary Huser, Norma Garcia, Natalie Zaza, Harvey & Doyleen Drozd, Jan Lorfing, Jasmin Renger Extended concerns: Laura Odell, Sarah Sralik, Jim Smith, Cody Rice Jr, William Lane, Mary Esther Rios, Erwin Rath, Brandi Orsak, Paiden Pruett, Richard Chapman, Morgan Heck, Dillon McCord, Jeffrey Morgenroth, Charlie Garmon, Carrie Besetsny, DeWayne Dixon, Evelyn Lishinski, James Evans, Pr. John Schmidt & family (Missionary in Ghana) Other Concerns: first responders (military, law enforcement, firefighter, medical), Safe House Church (Hallettsville); San Miguel (Ft. Worth) and Houston Oromo Lutheran Churches, President Biden; our country; and those facing unrest & unemployment

Grieving Families of: Eric Eckhardt, Lillian Gohlke Hobbs, David & Carla Jones, Roger Bishop, Tina Chovanetz, Pr. David Doefler, June Guenther, Dorothy Hotz

Serving Next Weekend: December 31st

Sunday AM: Assisting: Sophie Teltschik

Readers: Whitney Adee & Barb Koehn

Communion Set Up: Kari DeForest

Communion Clean Up: ?? Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: Wesley McAda, Shannon DeForest, Luther Lorfing, & Aaron Henke

Acolytes: Elli DeForest & Aubrey Muenster

Power Point Sunday: Judy Garmon

Altar Flowers given by: ??

Radio Ministry given by: Charles & Karla Klaeveman friends of St. Peter

SAVE THE DATES in January 2024

Sunday, Jan 7th Church Council Installation Wednesday, Jan 10th Family Faith Formation Night Saturday, Jan 27th Solid Rock Bingo "Mardi Gras Style" Sunday, Jan 28th First Steps Class

ENTRANCE HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)

vv1, 3-6

Text by Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum; Music by French processional

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O 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. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain* Text by John Brownlie; Music by A. Davisson

1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.

CLOSING HYMN All Earth Is Hopeful: (ELW 266)

Text by Madeleine Forell Marshall; Music by Alberto Taule

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
 "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
 she conceived him, "God with us,"
 our brother, whose birth
 restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.



2023 Poinsettias adorning the church in celebration of Christ's birth are given by:

Michael & Whitney Adee & family

in honor of Maeve Lynch

Martha Bludau

in memory of all deceased family members in honor of family & God's many blessings

James & Rida Chovanetz

in memory Fred & Tina Chovanetz in memory of family members who have passed in honor of our children & grandchildren

Shannon & Kari DeForest

in celebration of Olivia's Baptism

John & Cheryl Draper

in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Claude Draper in memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Thompson in memory of Ms. Claudia Draper Tabor in memory of Mrs. Florence Draper

Judy Drozd

For God's many Blessings

Dickie & Judy Garmon

in honor of our many blessings

Melanie Gilliam

in honor of granddaughter, McKenna Patterson

Warren & Barb Grindeland

Thankfulness for all of God's Blessings & Grace

Leonard & Carol Hollas

in memory of our parents



Mark & Debbie Hopper

in honor of our daughters, Amber Ferrell & Shelly McMillan

Gary Huser

in memory of Mom, Marie Huser in honor of Norma Garcia

Barb Koehn Family

in memory of our beloved husband, Dad, Opa-Larry Koehn and other family members who have joined God's Kingdom

Luther & Earlene Lorfing

in memory of John & Bessie Lorfing and Emil & Frances Melnar

Jennifer Martin

in memory of loved ones who have passed

Juliean Mihalovich & Joelle Williams-Mihalovich

in honor of Bill & Faith Williams in memory of John & Bernice Kovacik

Doug & Ann Mischer

in memory of our daughter, Michele Mischer Staats

Max & Kathryn Murdock

John Parker

in celebration of Lucille's Birthday

June Pence

in memory of Bill & June Renger

Harvey & Karen Renger

in thanksgiving for all God's Blessings

Kay Rother & Family

For all God's Blessings

Mae Rother

in memory of James Rother and Lorre Rother Knebel



Darlene Stacy & Les Besetsny in honor of Carrie Besetsny

Doug & Sharon Schaefer in memory of Carolyn Boyd

Leroy & Mary Schroeder for God's many Blessings

Linda Smith & Family in memory of James Smith and Adela Claus

Rev. Jared, Donna, Maggie, & John Stillions in memory of Clenon Tackett

Dondra & Jeremy Wilson in honor of our "Bebe", Kay Rother in honor of JoZelma Brown

Judy Winfield in memory of Woodrow Winfield

