

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

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

Blessed be the Kingdom...now and forever **and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

We stand OPENING HYMN

#263

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

✠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 ✠ 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✠

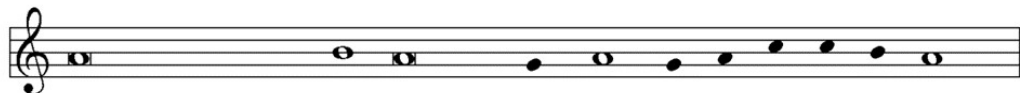
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

LITANY *Kyrie Eleison* Lord, Have Mercy!



Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



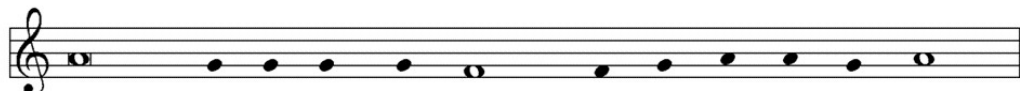
Ⓐ For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



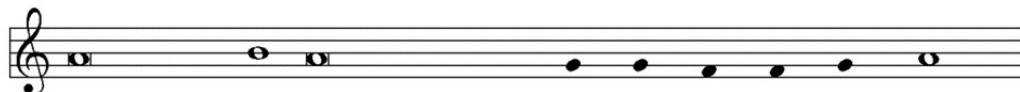
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



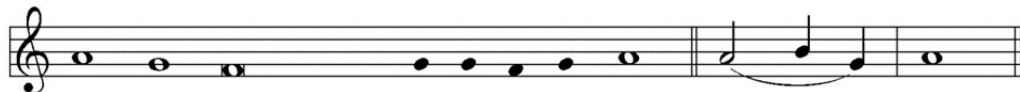
Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. Ⓞ A - men

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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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 MICAH 5:2-5A

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: LUKE 1:46B-55

⁴⁶ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

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

From this day all generations
will call me blessed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING HEBREWS 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

We stand. GOSPEL VERSE: JOHN 6:68

9AM ONLY P151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1:39-45

Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

#257

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

vv1,3,4,5,6

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Proclaim
Our Families

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

For the Church, the world, for one another, and for the sake of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

A brief silence

Father, our hearts yearn for your peace, justice, mercy, and righteousness. Let them shine on our broken world and heal our sad divisions. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, come quickly to save and heal us! Let us gaze upon the face of Jesus, and see in Him your mercy, salvation, and blessing.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your Church, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that she may be saved. Fill her with your Holy Spirit. Through Word and Sacrament, bring Jesus to many who do not know him. Grant that your persecuted people, who have been fed the bread of tears because they bless the name of Jesus, may be filled with good things. Humble their tormentors, and lead them to repent of their evil.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our children, O God, and let your face shine, that they may be saved. Help us share with them a childlike wonder and delight in the gifts of peace, mercy and joy that you give us in your Son.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore our congregation, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. 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. Grant that through words and deeds, we may cause many hearts to leap with joy at the close approach of their Savior.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your world, O God; let your face shine, that it may be saved. Cast down the haughty from their thrones. Raise up rulers who rejoice in doing your will. Shield from harm everyone who protects us from mayhem and terror. Fill all our hearts with humility and compassion, so that the poor and hungry may be filled with good things. Remember your promise of mercy, and establish your peace among all nations, kindred, families and tribes upon earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore all who are afflicted by pain, grief, fear or despair, O God. Let your face shine, that they might be saved. We pray especially for {List}. Remove the cup of tears from their lips, and remember unto them your promise of mercy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have shone your face upon our beloved dead, O God, and have bestowed on them the fullness of your salvation. We pray for the families of {List}. With gratitude and affection, we commend them into your care. Grant comfort to those who still eat the bread and drink the cup of tears. Feed us with the good things given by your beloved Son.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill us with heavenly joy and peace. Bring us, with cherubim and seraphim, with the hosts of heaven, with the blessed Mother of our Lord, with the countless throngs of prophets, apostles, martyrs, saints, and with your whole new creation, before your heavenly throne. There let us rejoice in your light and love, shining upon us in the face of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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."

OFFERTORY SONG *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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

5PM SPOKEN *p153*

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. Ⓞ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Ⓞ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:

5PM SPOKEN

Ⓞ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **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

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

vv1,4

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

Numbers 6:24-26

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 ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

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.

COFFEE TIME IS OPEN ON DEC 29TH

++++If you would like to bring snacks there is a signup sheet in the kitchen++++

Congratulations to Jack & Jennifer Conaway as they were united in marriage on Saturday, Dec 21st.

Tuesday, Dec 24th 4:00 pm & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, Dec 25th 9:00 am Christmas Day Service

We welcome Rhoads Scott Kittley, son of as he will be baptized on Christmas morning

Sunday, Dec 29th 9:00 am Lessons & Carols Service(*with communion*);

NO 5:00 PM Service today

YTD (Jan-Nov '24) \$257,884.39; **EXPENSES** \$276,398.25

DIFFERENCE +/- -\$18,513.86(*due to increased insurance rate*)

Attendance: Sunday, Dec 15: 9AM 86/5PM 11

Openings for: (2025 Flower/Radio Sponsorships are available)

Serving This Weekend Dec 22

Sunday AM: *Assisting:* Cheryl Draper

Communion Set Up: Patsy Klekar

Communion Clean Up: Martha Bludau

Organist: Denise Drozd

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

Acolytes: Liam Sralla & Karlie Hotz

Power Point Sunday: Judy Drozd

Altar Flowers given by Members' Poinsettias

Radio Ministry given by Leon & Carol Koehne Blessings of Jesus Christ and in memory of Landon Koehne

Sunday PM: *Assisting:* Aileen Peck

Communion Clean Up: Aileen Peck

Organist: Denise Drozd

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:45b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

This Week @ St. Peter

Sun Dec 22, 9:00 am Worship, 10:00 Coffee Time,
10:30 am Adult Christian Learning, 5:00 pm Worship Service

Mon Dec 23, 1:00 pm Quilting; 5:00 pm Social Ministry

Tue Dec 24, 4:00 pm Worship (*Christmas Eve*), 11:00 pm Worship

Wed Dec 25, 9:00 am Worship (*Christmas Day*) *Kittley Baptism*

Thu Dec 26, 7:30 pm AA/Al-Anon

Sun Dec 29, 9:00 am Worship (*Lessons & Carols*), 10:00 am Coffee Time

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

Concerns for: Buddy Hermes, Jonathan Brooks, Margie Renger, Jerry Brown, Joseph Williams, L.A. Muehr, Johnny Draper, Amy Schiffrin, Joelle Mihalovich, Leon Koehne, Mark Hopper, Lucille Parker, Lisa Beyer, Jerry Bonewald, the Miller Family, Howard Loewe, Leroy Schroeder

Extended concerns: Jim Brandt, Edmund Koerth, Barbara Tackett, Charlotte Hartmann, Melissa Grice, Michael Drozd, Misty Fletcher Remmers, Cody Rice Jr, William Lane, Brandi Orsak, Jeffrey Morgenroth, Charlie Garmon, Carrie Besetsny, DeWayne Dixon, 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; President-elect Donald Trump, our country; and those facing unrest & unemployment

Grieving Families of: Helen Spies, Joseph Orr, Beverly Green, Larry Stillions, Elroy Tesch, Francis Christ, Bill Drozd, A.J. Kutac, Celia Ann Kruse, Milton Mika, Evelyn Lishinski, Sarah Sralik, Carl Ticken, Dorothy Ehler

Serving Next Weekend Dec 29

Sunday AM: *Assisting:* Sophie Teltschik

Extra Readers: Whitney Adee & Barb Koehn

Communion Set Up: Kari DeForest

Communion Clean Up: Kari DeForest

Organist: Denise Drozd

Ushers: Wesley McAda, Shannon DeForest, Luther Lorring, Aaron Henke

Acolytes: McKenna Patterson & Kaylie Hotz

Power Point Sunday: Summer Leopold

Altar Flowers given by Members' Poinsettias

Radio Ministry given by Women In Mission in memory of Milton Mika

NO Sunday PM:

SAVE THE DATES IN JANUARY

Sunday, Jan 12: Next Steps Class (*Baptism*)_10:30 am-3:00 pm (*lunch provided*)

Wednesday, Jan 8 Confirmation returns 6:00 pm -8:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 11 “Let’s Fiesta!” Solid Rock Bingo Night

Wednesday, Jan 15 Family Faith Night returns 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Entrance Hymn (ELW) *Savior of the Nations, Come* (ELW 263)

Text by Martin Luther; Music by J. Walter

1 Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

3 Wondrous birth--oh, wondrous child--
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

4 From God's heart the Savior speeds,
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

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

Closing Hymn (ELW) *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)

Text by Frans Mikael Franzen; Music by Swedish folk tune

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain**