

Festival of Our Lord's Nativity | Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

4:00 PM

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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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**

#290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

✠**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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

1John 1:8-9

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you- who believe and repent- of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The proclamation should be understood as the announcement of the incarnation within human history rather than a literal counting of years.

The Advent wreath Christ candle is lit.

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image; long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom; eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges; a thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

#289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Luke 2:14 v1

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Jesus Christ is born. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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.**



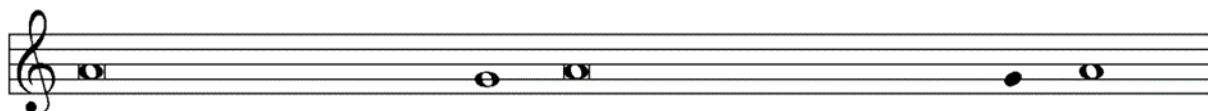
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



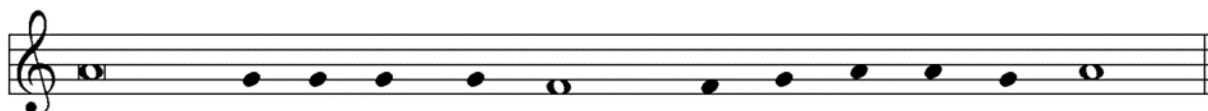
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



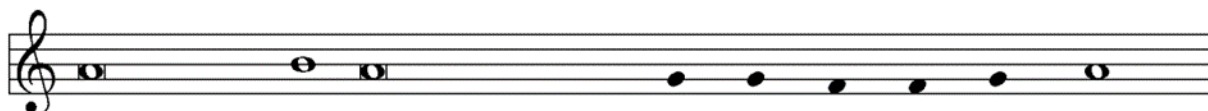
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

SONG OF PRAISE

#289

“Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:14

v1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us pray... Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Next Steps Memory Verse: LUKE 2:10-11

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

We sit FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 96

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with
equity.”

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety
and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and
godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God
and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all
iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

We stand. GRADUAL HYMN
#283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

v1 & refrain only

We stand. GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:1-20

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

#283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

v4 & refrain only

HYMN OF THE DAY

#277

“Away in a Manger”

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Proclaim
St. Joseph

We stand. PROCLAMATION OF FAITH 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* 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.

*means whole, entire Christian

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O come, let us adore Christ our Lord, and kneel before him with our prayers.

A brief silence

Jesus, Brother, we welcome you. Jesus, Friend, we delight in you. Jesus, King, we bow before you. Jesus, God, we worship you. Let your church's words "speak you," the Living Word. Let its teaching be a star of hope, burning in the world's darkness. Shine so brightly in the lives of your people that their enemies turn to you in repentance and faith. Let us love you as heaven's gift and treasure. 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. Let all we do help others to trust and worship you.

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

O Jesus, our Emmanuel, you lay your glory aside "to raise each child of earth." Bring light and life to those who do not know you or believe that you are God, veiled in human flesh.

Reconcile all peoples, nations, races, and tribes under your glorious and gentle rule. Lift up all whose forms bend low beneath life's crushing load. Bestow a measure of your peace to all who stand in harm's way, protecting others, in this death-shadowed world. Renew their courage and purify their hearts. Use their labors to bring hope and healing in communities fractured by hatred and violence.

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

O Savior, child of Mary, you felt our human woe. Bring healing, peace, and hope to all who suffer and to all who mourn, even on this holy and joyful night. O Sun of Righteousness, rise upon them with healing in your wings!

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

O Savior, King of Glory, you have triumphed over our ancient foes: sin, evil, and death. Thank you for your love, which guarded, guided, and kept our loved ones in your care until their life's end. And now, Lord Jesus, dearest friend: Bring us at length to heaven and into your endless day. With all whom you have redeemed, let us praise, adore, and delight in you; for with your Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign forever and ever and unto the ages of ages.

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

Be near us, Lord Jesus; and hear when we pray. Stay by us forever and love us always. Bless all your dear children in your tender care. And fit us for heaven, to dwell with you there.

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 #294

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

v3 only

3 What can I give him, poor as I am?

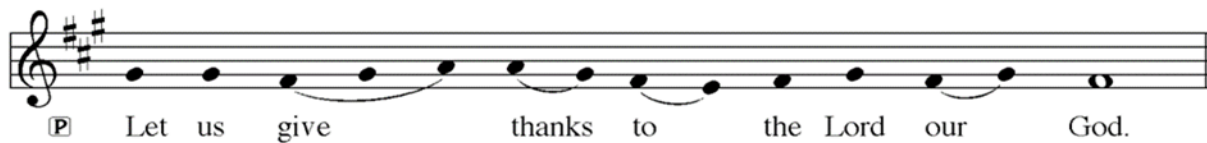
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

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



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven & earth...

As he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

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 by row by intinction. To receive the host, extend your hand, palm up; you may dip the wafer into the chalice. 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.**

#267

“Joy to the World”

v1

Let us pray, we give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing powers of this gift of life. In your mercy strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of 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 ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

#281

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

by candlelight

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.



St. Peter Christmas Schedule:

Wednesday, Dec 25th 9AM Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 29th 9AM Lessons & Carols Service

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to worship with you tonight. We hope you will do so again. We celebrate Holy Communion worship at 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM on Sundays. Sunday worship is followed by coffee at 10:00 AM and then learning for all ages at 10:30 AM. We pray that you have a blessed Christmas and that the light of Jesus Christ shines brightly in your life.

Opening Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (#290)

Text by John W. Work, Jr.; Music by African American spiritual

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (#270)

Text by Charles Wesley; Music by William Cummings

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Song of Praise: Angels We Have Heard on High (#289)

Text by HF. Henry; Music by Edward S. Barnes

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gradual Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (#283)

Text by Frederick Oakeley; Music by John Francis Wade

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Hymn of the Day: “Away in a Manger” (#277)

Text by North American 19th cent; Music by James R. Murray

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Post Communion Song: “Joy to the World” (#267)

Text by Isaac Watts; Music by Lowell Mason

v1

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Closing Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night” (#281)

Text by John F. Young; Music by Franz Gruber

**1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**



2024 Poinsettias adorning the church in celebration of Christ's birth are given by:

Martha Bludau

In memory of deceased family members and in honor of God's many blessings

Les Besetsny & Darlene Stacy

In honor of Carrie Besetsny

James & Rida Chovanetz

In honor of our family

In memory of those who have gone before us

In thankfulness for the St. Peter Family

In honor of Pastor Jared & family

Shannon & Kari DeForest

In honor of God's many blessings

In memory of our loved ones

Denise Drozd

In memory of Clarence, Bill, & Bobby Drozd

Judy Drozd

In honor of God's many blessings

Lucille Drozd

In honor of family

Jarrold & Lindsay Duty

In memory of Vernon Duty, Sr. & Vernon Duty, Jr.

Dickie & Judy Garmon

In honor of Lillie Perry & Lorene Stork

Warren & Barb Grindeland

In gratefulness of Jesus' Birth, and his unconditional love & grace

Jed & Natalie Henke

In memory of Gene Drozd

In memory of Margaret Matula

Mark & Debbie Hopper

To the glory of God



Lynette Hruzek

In memory of Sarah Sralik
In memory of Myrtle & Olin Teer

Gary Huser

In memory of Agnes & Frank Roeder
In memory of my mom & dad
In honor of my friends & family

Barbara Koehn

Praise & glory to God in memory of Larry's life on earth
Blessings to our children Jeff and Mike Koehn & their families

Luther & Earline Lorfing

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

Doug & Ann Mischer

In memory of our daughter, Michele Mischer Staats

L.A. & Janis Muehr

In memory of parents Lawrence & Elnar Muehr and George & Irene Gummelt

Max & Kathryn Murdock

Michelle Pardy

In honor of Elliana, Abigail, & Olivia's baptisms

Harvey & Karen Renger

In thanksgiving

Kay Rother

In memory of Wanda, Steeve & Edwin Rother
In honor of children Brenda, Sandra, Lee, & Norma

Linda Smith

In memory of James Smith

Dustin, Kayla, & Liam Sralla

In memory of Milton Mika

Pr. Jared, Donna, Maggie, & John Stillions

In memory of loved ones

Judy Winfield

In memory of Woody Winfield