

Festival of Our Lord's Nativity
December 25, 2024
Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

Portions of the liturgy are from Sundaysandseasons.com, copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Prayers of the Church, copyright 2024 Lutheran Core. Sermon, copyright 2024 Jared Stillions or other listed preacher. Used by permission. All other material not covered by other copyright is copyright 2024 St. Peter Lutheran Church of Hallettsville, Texas. Reprinted by permission under one or more of the following licenses: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB140201, One License A-727829, CCLI 11158184. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-727829 and/or CCLI with license 11158184. No reproduction allowed without permission.

Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

Hearing assistance is available near the usher's table. See an usher for help.

St. Peter worship services are recorded and broadcasted.

When you enter a St. Peter Lutheran Church worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Such photographs and audio/visual recordings may be used by St. Peter for any reason. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to, photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties or inspection.

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**

#298

“The Bells of Christmas”

✠**HOLY COMMUNION**✠

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to God”

tune “Joyful, Joyful”

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.

For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the LORD. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

We sit FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

We stand. GOSPEL VERSE: John 6:68

p151



GOSPEL READING: LUKE: 2:8-20

Glory to You, O Lord.

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!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#268

“From Heav’n Above”

vv1-4, 8

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Proclaim
Shepherds

Rite of Holy Baptism

Sunday AM only

Sunday PM will only say Creed, then prayers

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

We present *Rhoads Scott Kittley* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

I do

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

For *Rhoads* who is Baptized today, and for all the baptized everywhere: that they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death; that the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth; that they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church; that they may be sent into the world in witness to your love; that they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory.

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

Dear Father, thank you for giving us your Son. In Him we are bold to call you Abba, Father! Thank you for being God-with-us. Thank you for fleshing out your love, forgiveness, and peace, in a way we can approach, touch, and believe in our trembling and death-shadowed hearts. Thank you for bringing us the light of eternity in this Babe of Bethlehem, Mary's boy, your Son, and our Savior.

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

Bless your Church throughout the world. Make it a place where all may hear the angel's song and hasten to adore Jesus, their Lord and Savior. Shelter your persecuted Church in your arms, so they may gather to worship in peace and rise to serve you in joy.

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

Bless our guests and visitors, especially those whose faith wavers and whose hearts are heavy. Give them a glimpse of the joys you have prepared for all who love you.

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

Bless this congregation – its people and programs, its worship and service. 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. Grace all we do with your strong saving love. Help us to freely share Jesus, today and always, with those who do not know him and with all who need him most.

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

Bless our country, this world, and all its people and creatures, with peace and good will; with health and safety; with kindness and justice; with food for body and soul; and with love for you and one another.

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

Bless everyone for whom this season of joy is dimmed by sorrow, pain, loneliness, and everything else that is inflicted by evil's power working through human hands or natural disaster. Come with healing in your wings; with tidings of great joy; and with light and life for all.

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

Bless all who mourn with the certainty that you have opened heaven's doors to all who have died trusting in your promises. We pray especially for the families of {List}. Bless us each day of our earthly pilgrimage with peace and mercy, reconciliation and joy. Add lead us, at length, we pray, to your bright courts of heaven, and to your endless day.

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

Thank you for hearing our prayers, dear Lord. We entrust them, and our lives, into your merciful care. **Amen.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil? **I do.**

Do you renounce the devil? **I do.**

Do you renounce all the devil's empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Rhoads, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

HYMN

#444

“Cradling Children in His Arms”

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

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Olive, Titus* the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. **Amen**

Rhoads, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father, mother, and family of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for this child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Through Baptism God has made this new brother member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear their creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

FAITH CHEST

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 a handshake and 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 by scanning this code& on our website

stpeterhallettsville.org/giving

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 can I give him...give my heart.

BLESSING OF TOYS & GIFTS

Gracious Heavenly Father...of the child of Bethlehem we pray. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you...Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

“Lift Up Your Hearts”

tune “Ob, Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Lord be with you...

And with you, His servant.

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts . . . unto the Lord.

With hearts . . . uplifted, thanks to Him we render:

With joy we come before Him,

in gratefulness implore Him,

With thankful hearts adore Him Evermore!

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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

tune “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain.

All of the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is He who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King!

Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail hosanna! Praises due

be forever, Lord, to You!

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

tune "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Our Father, Lord on heaven's high throne, Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth- In heaven the same.
Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead. From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto you In grateful love we bow;
And yours the power; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung By angel hosts and men
In every land, by every tongue Forevermore! 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 body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

#268

“From Heav’n Above”

vv12-14

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

"Aaronic Blessing"

tune "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Lord bless and keep you, look with love upon you.

Be gracious, and cause His face to shine . . . with peace!

Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

The Savior close beside us,

God's love from harm to hide us,

The Spirit's power to guide us evermore!

We stand. CLOSING HYMN

#279

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



St. Peter New Year's Schedule:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to worship with you this morning. 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.

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.

We welcome **Rhoads Scott Kittley** son of Zachary and Emily as he becomes a Child of God today! His sponsors are Adriane McCord, Reagan McAda, Harrison & Brooke Hanna

Opening Hymn "The Bells of Christmas" (#298)

Text by Charles Porterfield Krauth; Music by Carl Balle

**1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.**

**2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.**

**3 Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.**

**4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!**

**5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
great David's Son, great David's Lord:**

**6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.**

Hymn of the Day: "From Heaven Above" (#268)

Text & Music by Martin Luther

vv1-4, 8

1 From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:"

2 "To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth."

3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free."

4 "The blessing that the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share."

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away;
how can our thanks such love repay?

Baptism Song: "Cradling Children in His Arm" ELW #444

Text by V Knudson; Music by Johann Horn

**Cradling children in his arm,
Jesus gave his blessing.
To our babes a welcome warm
he is yet addressing.
Take them, Lord, give life anew
in the living waters!
Keep them always near to you
as your sons and daughters!**

Post Communion Hymn: "From Heav'n Above" (#268)

Text & Music by Martin Luther

w12-14

**12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.**

**13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:**

**14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!**

Closing Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”(#279)

Text by Phillips Brooks; Music by Lewis H. Redner

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**

**3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**



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