

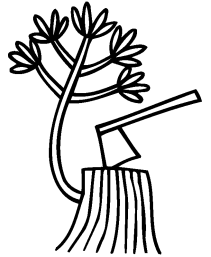
**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.***  
**Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025**  
*Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship*

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen**



Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by ☩ grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

We bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Oh, come, let us worship and praise our God.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Isaiah 11:1-9** *Contemporary English Version*

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 11.  
Like a branch that sprouts from a stump,  
someone from David's family will someday be king.  
The Spirit of the LORD will be with him  
to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight.

He will be powerful, and he will know and honor the LORD.

His greatest joy will be to obey the LORD.

This king won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors.

The poor and the needy will be treated  
with fairness and with justice.

His word will be law everywhere in the land,  
and criminals will be put to death.

Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes.

Leopards will lie down with young goats,  
and wolves will rest with lambs.

Calves and lions will eat together  
and be cared for by little children.

Cows and bears will share the same pasture;  
their young will rest side by side.

Lions and oxen will both eat straw.

Little children will play near snake holes.

They will stick their hands into dens  
of poisonous snakes and never be hurt.

Nothing harmful will take place  
on the LORD's holy mountain.

Just as water fills the sea, the land will be filled  
with people who know and honor the LORD.

This is God's Word, our hope.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-15**      *International Children's Bible*

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

That night (when Jesus was born in Bethlehem), some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

"Give glory to God in heaven,  
and on earth let there be peace  
to the people who please God."

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven.  
The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."  
This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

- 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.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Refrain*

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

*Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

**MESSAGE:**        **Joy**        *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world.  
Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing,  
and equity among peoples. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. Surround all with care and consolation. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Lynn, Will, Linda, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* God our hope, **in the Word made flesh, you share with us joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share and welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen**

#### **BLESSING and PEACE**

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always. **Amen**  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop all on the same day. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Ambrose is credited with authorship of three hymns in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263).

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***Today's Sponsorships***

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of the love and friendship of my St. Peter's family.  
Given by Marcia Darney.

In Celebration for Kimberlee Barnes' birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of my parents,  
Mr. and Mrs. James Frederick, Jr.  
Given by their daughter, Mary Lue.

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Attendance for November 30, 2025: 38

### ***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 12/21 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 12/14 & 28 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**WELCA Christmas Bazaar:** Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9a-1p. at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Craft and vendor tables (\$20/table if selling items), items that are priced for children to get a gift for a loved one, Breakfast with Santa (\$7/adult and \$5/child under 10), seafarer item collection, and Toys for Tots collection. For vendor table contact Michele Jecelin at [jmjecelin1018@gmail.com](mailto:jmjecelin1018@gmail.com).

**Community Crafters:** Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). This month we'll be making Christmas themed pictures. You're also invited to bring crafts you're working on. RSVP to Robin Palmer at 443-857-9555.

**Christmas Caroling:** Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. from Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Join us as we wander through the Cedmont community singing carols for our neighbors. We'll meet in the courtyard at 7 pm. for a hot beverage and collect our song sheets.

**Blue Christmas:** Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). For those who experience sadness during this Advent season, please join us for an uplifting service.

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School and PACE***

Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year begins in January! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Referrals are always welcome!