

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
of New Pittsburg, Ohio

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**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent***

Service of Holy Communion  
Hymns from ELW  
10:00 A.M.

# Order of Service

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*What Child is This*

Vicki Moore

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

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**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Assembly is seated.*

*Verse 2*

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Schmucker Family

Filled with the peace of the second Sunday of Advent, we prepare room for Christ's love in our hearts.

As we continue to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming, we see all the places that we wish we were more faithful or more loving, and we may even try to change ourselves or beat ourselves up. However, this season of waiting is about waiting for God to act in us. It is about being at peace within ourselves.

This season we ask God for peace. Peace within ourselves, peace in our families, and peace throughout our world. God has made us from the dust of the earth and God will continue to mold us into exactly what we are meant to be.

Since we trust God is with us, we rest in peace knowing that God can change our hearts.

As we light this candle of peace, we ask Christ to refine our hearts and prepare Him room in our hearts and lives.

*(Light Candle)*

Prince of Peace, **refine us like gold and silver. Remind us that we are precious in your sight and give us your peace. In the name of a newborn baby born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

*Youth are released for Jr. Church*

**FIRST READING:** Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

## **LUKE 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,**

<sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who  
hate us.

**<sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,**

<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,

**<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Alleluia, ELW Setting 3*)

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

**\*GOSPEL:** Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*Refined for Peace*

Pastor Stephanie

*The assembly stands.*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

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

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Vicki Moore

*The assembly stands*

**\*OFFERTORY HYMN** *Create in Me a Clean Heart ( WOV 732)*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



*(The table is prepared)*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

**PREFACE - (Sung)**

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Setting 3)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff contains 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

*The assembly may be seated.*

**LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 3)**

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.

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

**Vicki Moore**

**\*BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** to the tune of “*Edelweiss*”

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

**Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.**

**Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.**

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

**\*BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,

✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ELW 631

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Good Christian Men Rejoice*

Vicki Moore

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