

PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 29, 2020



Our mission is “to Know Christ,
to Grow in Christ,
and to Show the Love of Christ.”

Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church

Our mission is “To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,
and to Show the Love of Christ”

We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

Sue Paulsen

WELCOME

INVOCATION

L: Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. We begin our worship remembering the God who seeks to call us to faith, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin and whose mercy endures forever.

P: Amen

L: As God’s beloved children, let us call to mind our sin, our need for forgiveness and our need for reconciliation with each other and God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Strong and faithful God,

P: we confess that we have not lived as your holy people in the world. We have closed our hearts to your love. We have resisted your light. We have failed to proclaim your mercy. Forgive what we have done and what we have left undone, heal us with your abundant grace, and help us walk as children of the light. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us live and walk and live in newness of life. Amen



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
 that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
 As we light the first candle on this wreath,
 rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
 when he comes with all the saints and angels.
 Enlighten us with your grace,
 and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
 Grant this through Christ our Lord,
 whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

Light one candle.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you

LITANY OF FAITH

L: As Easter people, we believe God is Lord of both life and death.

P: We believe that in an astounding act of grace, Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins.

L: We believe, three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead, promising us salvation, not because we deserve it, but out of love, through grace.

P: We believe we are called to respond to that gift of grace, not out of duty, but in gratitude, to seek peace, care for the ill, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the earth, empower the oppressed and welcome the outcast; to carry on Christ's work until he comes again. Because, as Easter people, we are confident Christ will come again. Alleluia! Amen

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Let us pray... **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

- ¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
¹⁸ **Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**
¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord. ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

“Pass it On”

TOSB 164 vs 1,2,3

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread your love to everyone
You want to pass it on
2. What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

3. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain tops
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

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GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Dave Brauer-Rieke

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of faith, and we come before God with Jim & Jill Engel, Katheryn Emmenegger, Stephen & Heidi, Neil & Lora Lombard, as they make affirmation of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism and that you have made us your own by creating faith in us through your Word and the witness of the Saints in Christ. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in Holy Communion and in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFFESION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

(The congregation is invited join in confessing our common faith)

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, 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.**

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.**

(The leader addresses those who are making affirmation of their baptism.)

You have made profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people,

- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray our new members and all of God's people:

Gracious God, stir up in Jim & Jim Engel, Katheryn Emmenegger, Stephen, Heidi, Neil and Lora Lombard the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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SENDING RESPONSE

We are welcomed into God's love,

Just as we are

We are sent into God's world,

To be a reflection of Christ.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Reception of New Members

Today, we rejoice in welcoming new members to our faith community. We give thanks for the gifts that they have brought and will continue to bring to us. Jim & Jill Engel, Katheryn Emmenegger, Stephen & Heidi, Neil & Lora Lombard. We also give thanks for the life and witness of Bishop Shelley Wickstrom who joins us today as a member of our congregation for this Church Year.

Congregational Meeting Today (November 29th) at 11 am

This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and simultaneously on ZOOM, to make decisions regarding the repair of the foundation of the Education Building and the financing of it. To join by ZOOM [Click Here](#). To join by phone dial 1 253 215 8782 then follow the prompts
Meeting ID: 864 0872 0452. Passcode: 424966

Midweek Advent Services – Holden Evening Prayer

Join us on Thursday 12/3,10,17 & Wednesday the 23rd at 7:00pm for Holden Evening Prayer and devotions in the Sanctuary or on Facebook (Petersburg Lutheran 2018+) or [Click Here](#). If you would like to participate by having a copy of the Holden Evening Prayer Service, you may pick one up in the entry to the church or the church office. If you would like to have a copy delivered, please contact the church office. 772-3144 plcakoffice@gmail.com.

Daily Advent Devotions can be received through Luther Seminary by **email or downloaded by** [Clicking Here](#).

Advent Devotional Booklets

A few devotional booklets similar to the Christ In Our Home devotionals are available in the narthex.

Petersburg Lutheran Church

3% Monthly Benevolence Support

Each month PLC gives 3% of the offerings received to a special ministry identified by the Church Council and affirmed by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. If you have specific input for the Church Council to consider as they plan for 2021 please submit that to the Church Office by December 6th.

Prayers for Health & Healing

Tom Parker Tim Fisk Marcy Gelhaus Roald Norheim
Randy and Shannon Payne Ted Smith Renee Volk

Prayers for those Serving our Country

Jesse Anderson serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale US Marine, serving in San Diego, CA
Dave Chapman serving in Honolulu, HI
Shania Dahlberg serving at Camp Pendleton, CA
Jon Floyd serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Parker serving in Bangor, WA
Michael Gardner serving in Fort Meade, MD
Alan McCay USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson US Marines, serving in Pensacola, FL
Michael Serafini serving at Ft Irwin, CA
Shane Small US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer USCG, serving in Connecticut

Prayers for Our Church Council

Church Council: Desi Burrell, Ginger Evens, Secretary;
Susan Holmes, President; Leesa Murph, Youth; Tom Parker,
Liv Perschon, Vice President; John Small; John Swanson;
Chris Van Ettinger, Treasurer

Holy Communion

We will be celebrating Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Our next communion will be Sunday December 6th.

Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM

Join us for the Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM at 10:00 am Thursday Morning. [Click HERE](#) to join us on ZOOM Your audio and video will be muted automatically when you join. To dial in by phone call 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 414 101 024

Administration Building Foundation Repair

A fund has been set up to receive gifts for the repair of the foundation. If you are interested in giving a gift toward this important project, please write in the memo field of your check '**foundation repair**'. We are thankful for the gifts recently received.



Sun. Nov.. 29: Glo Wollen, David Tow,
Sylvia Ewing

Thus. Dec. 3: Max and Zach Peeler, Betty
Pederson, Cherie Martens

Sat. Dec. 5: Devyn Flint

This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 29th

8:30 am... Adult Bible Class, Fellowship Hall :

Debate at BYU or Can Prayer Change History

10 am... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

11 am... Congregational Meeting: Foundation Repair

9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

Sunday, December 6th

10 am~ Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

Petersburg Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Olsen ~ plcakpastor@gmail.com

406 Excel Street PO Box 709 ~Office: 772-3144

November Prayer Partner: Mat Su Latino Ministry

November Mission Support: "Crocheting Their Way" Ministry;
Wildwood Women's Prison, Kenai, Alaska

Salvation Army Pantry: canned juices

Annual Cookie Walk Saturday, December 19th

PLC will again host a Cookie Walk in the Holy Cross Hall and we need you to bake!

Please pre-package your baked goods for the sale, ziplock bags will work well.

This event has been well received by the community and provides funds for local needs. Please help by baking treats and/or buying treats.

We will need a **LOT** of cookies, so consider starting your baking now and putting cookies in the freezer.

If you have any questions, contact the office at 772-3144.

Thank you for your help!

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Learn from the Figs

Fig trees mature slowly. They don't require much maintenance, but they do require plenty of time to grow. Some fig trees take years to start producing fruit. It may be tempting to give up on a fig too soon, but the patient gardener knows to wait and watch for the subtle signs that the fig tree is about to produce.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson,” Jesus says in today's gospel (Mark 13:28). Just as the gardener watches for indications that a bud is about to unfold, so should believers watch for where God's presence is emerging in the world.

Jesus' words in this passage paint a picture of God's arrival as unsettling and fearsome, with darkening skies and shaking celestial orbs. It is hard to imagine how anyone could miss such an arrival, yet Jesus warns his listeners that those who are not vigilant will be caught unaware. We must watch with care and patience for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man, like the gardener who watches for the ripening fig. If you think such signs can be ignored, you will miss the surprising, gentle cry of the incarnate God come as a tiny, vulnerable baby.

Today, at the beginning of Advent, we enter a season of waiting and watching as we anticipate with hope the coming of Christ's light into the world. Yet, even as we wait, there are active signs of God's presence all around us now—in water and word, in bread and wine, in the assembly gathered for worship. These signs remind us of God's gracious love toward us. At the same time, the lesson of the fig tree reminds us to stay curious and attentive, open to what might surprise us. God is always up to something new.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Next week's readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 , Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-8