

PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent



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 Music

Pianist: Sue Paulsen

Welcome and Invocation

Pastor Eric Olsen

Opening Hymn *“Prepare the Royal Highway”* **ELW # 264**

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH—Advent 2

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

Light two candles

Confession and Forgiveness

Presider: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Presider: Most merciful God,

Congregation: **have mercy on us.**

All: We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen

Presider: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW #157

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
 Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

Hymn of Praise: Now the Feast

ELW #167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
 God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Presider: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **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 strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the

Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

⁸**Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²**The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God. ⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in

accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Father I Adore You”

TOSB 40

Father I adore You
Lay my life before You.
How I love You.

Jesus I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You

Spirit I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You.

Three in one, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You.

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Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus’ birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" ELW # 256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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 the People

Offering

Offertory Response: “As the Grains of Wheat” ELW #465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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Offertory Prayer

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them and throughout this week we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: 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.**

Musical Selection (If you are communing in your home, the person sharing the bread and the wine may use these words)

The body of Christ given for you
The blood of Christ shed for you

P: Post Communion Blessing

Announcements

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

“We Praise You, O God”

ELW #870

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

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

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join us Today (Dec 6th) for Worship and Fellowship time on ZOOM. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by [Clicking Here](#) Password: 874950 or Call: 1 253-215-8782 ~if busy call 1 669-900-9128 At prompt enter Meeting ID: 846 0569 4721

This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 6th

8:30 am... Adult Bible Class, Fellowship Hall *Revi Zacharius*

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

Thursday~10 am... Lectionary Bible Study on Zoom

Sunday, Dec 13th

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

December Prayer Partner: Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage

December Mission Support: Lutheran World Relief

Salvation Army Pantry: powdered and canned milk

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

Advent Resources

Advent Devotion are being shared daily on the Alaska Synod ELCA Facebook Page [Click Here](#). These devotions are given by people from across the Alaska Synod.

Birthdays This Week

Sun. Dec. 6: Julia Murph

Tues. Dec. 8: Metta Miller

Wed. Dec. 9: Jody Tow

Fri. Dec. 11: Stacey Kittams, Alicia Kittams

Prayers for Health & Healing

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

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 this Sunday and again on December 20th. If you are not comfortable worshipping in-person, you are invited to join in celebrating this meal in your home. In order to be prepared, please have bread, wine or grape juice available. It is part of our tradition that Christ is fully present in the wine and in the bread, so if you do not have access to wine or grape juice you can commune using the bread alone.

Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Click [HERE](#) or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. Just ignore the sign in/log in prompt.

Petersburg Lutheran Church Office Administrator Opening

Petersburg Lutheran Church is looking to hire a part time 20hr per week Office Administrator with strong interpersonal skills, ability to maintain confidentiality, computer literate, maintain records, relate to the public via phone, email and personal contact. For full job description contact the church office at 907-772-3144 or email plcakoffice@gmail.com. Salary based on experience \$13.00 - \$18.00 hour.

Administration Building Foundation Repair

At the congregational meeting on 11/29 it was approved to proceed with the foundation repair by hiring “Steelhead Enterprises”. The final cost is not known at this time due to all of the unknowns involved. However, an estimate of \$40,000 is on the table. A fund has been set up to receive gifts for this project. If you are interested in giving a gift toward this project, please write in the memo field of your check: ‘foundation repair’. We are grateful for the \$13,899 already received for this project. If sufficient gifts are not received it was approved to take up to \$17,000 from savings to help fund this project.

Midweek Advent Services – Holden Evening Prayer

Join us on Thursday 12/10,17 & 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.

Bulletin Cover Art

We are looking for people who are interested in submitting a picture or artwork for the bulletin cover relating to the scripture lessons for that Sunday. You can find the coming week's scripture lesson at the bottom of the last page of the bulletin. If you would like to look further ahead, please contact the church office and we will send you the scripture lessons for the coming weeks. 772-3144 or plcakoffice@gmail.com. Thank you!

Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some have started to contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page click [HERE](#) and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking [HERE](#) .

Your Offerings

Offering Month to Date \$1475
Offering Year to Date \$ 181,444
Monthly General Budget \$20, 162

Annual Cookie Walk Saturday, December 19th

Consider starting your baking now and putting cookies in the freezer. Contact the office at 772-3144 with questions

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pointing to Christ

Mark's gospel opens with fanfare: a herald announcing the good news that the Lord is on the way! It's time to prepare for the Savior! The role model for this process of preparation is an unusual character. He lives in the wild, wears animal skins, and eats insects. Because of his extreme lifestyle, John the Baptist is often portrayed as a madman living on the fringes of society.

Yet, the text makes clear that John was a respected faith leader. People from all over the region were coming to him to be baptized. In John's context, living in the desert and eating a foraged diet were signs of spiritual commitment, not lunacy. We might imagine John as a precursor to the Christian desert mothers and fathers who came after him, wise teachers who lived in voluntary isolation. People made a point to come hear what these teachers had to say.

John used his influence to point to Jesus. Although he had a popular ministry of his own, John understood that his call to prepare the way for Jesus involved humility and service. He told others he wasn't even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals, a sentiment that was meant to elevate Jesus, not to demean John. He wanted to communicate how transformative Jesus' ministry would be. "I have baptized with water," John proclaimed, "but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8).

As we declare in our baptismal rite, that same Holy Spirit calls us into baptism and seals us with the mark of Christ forever. We, like John, are called to humble service for the sake of God's mission in the world, to use our unique gifts and vocations to point to Jesus. We become messengers proclaiming the good news: God has come to dwell with us.

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Next week's readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 ; Psalm 126 ; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Petersburg Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Olsen ~ plcakpastor@gmail.com

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