

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 13, 2020  
Third 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: Lila Trask**

**Welcome and Invocation**

**Pastor Eric**

**Opening Hymn “Angels From the Realms of Glory “ ELW # 275**

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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## Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts  
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*Presider:* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Presider:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Reconciling God, **We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely in our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Your sins are forgiven for Jesus sake. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Greeting:** 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.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

### **Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

## **Amen**

**Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11**

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has

covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations,**  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb!**

<sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

<sup>6</sup>**He that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ELW # 272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## **Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.* <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Eric

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world;

**The light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us now for it is evening;

**And the day is almost over.**

Let your light scatter the darkness;

**And shine within your people here.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## **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**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **Offering**

#### **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**

### **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

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANITIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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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**

### **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today (Dec 13th) for 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

### **Prayers for Health & Healing**

Tom Parker      Tim Fisk      Marcy Gelhaus      Roald Norheim  
Randy and Shannon Payne      Ted Smith      Erica Thompson  
Irene "Ikie" Roundtree      Chris & Paul Van Ettinger

### **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 Thyne      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 next Sunday on December 20th.

### **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.

### **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 \$ 6,225  
Offering Year to Date \$ 186,074  
Monthly General Budget \$20, 162

### **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

### **Quilts Sent to Haines**

The Quilters sent eight quilts to Haines, AK last week and an additional five this week. They will be distributed to those in need in Haines by the Salvation Army to those in need following the recent landslides. Thank you for reaching out to those in need!

## Midweek Advent Services – Holden Evening Prayer

Join us on Thursday 12/17 & Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com). Salary based on experience \$13.00 - \$18.00 hour.

### **8th Annual Cookie Walk this 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.

Bring your cookies to the church Friday between 4 and 6 or by 8 am Saturday morning. If you have any questions, contact Liv at 518-1693.

Thank you for your help!

**December Prayer Partner:** Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage

**December Mission Support:** Lutheran World Relief

**Salvation Army Pantry:** pasta and pasta sauces

### **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](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **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.

### **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 \$25,800 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.

### **Coffee Order**

An order for Mt. Meru coffee will be placed this Sunday, December 13th. Please contact Grant Trask to place your order. 772-3775 or [trask@gci.net](mailto:trask@gci.net)



## **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, December 13th**

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

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

**Friday** ~ 4 pm—6 pm drop off your cookies for the Cookie Walk

**Saturday 10 am...** Annual Cookie Walk, Holy Cross Hall

**Sunday, Dec 20th**

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](mailto:plcakpastor@gmail.com)

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

### **Sermon audio/video:**

<https://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons-2/>

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

Follow us on Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+



### **Birthdays This Week**

**Tues. Dec. 15:** Lana Corl, Desi Burrell, Shannon Peeler

**Wed. Dec. 16:** Karen Severson

**Thurs. Dec. 17:** Megan O'Neil

**Fri. Dec. 18:** Annie Christensen

**Sat. Dec. 19:** Lora Lombard, Angela Menish

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 13, 2020

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Who Are You?

John knows who he is. When the Pharisees' messengers demand that John give his credentials, he confidently responds that he is on a divinely appointed mission to witness to the light of Christ. He references the Hebrew Scriptures, orienting himself within the wider story of God's relationship with Israel. John knows that his testimony is important.

It is notable that John also knows who he is *not*. In this conversation alone, he clarifies that he is not the Messiah, nor a reincarnation of Elijah, nor a prophet. He emphasizes that he is not even worthy to untie the sandals of the one who comes after him. In other words, John has the humility to admit that he is not Jesus.

The gospel writer says that John "confessed" these declarations about who he was and who he was not (John 1:20). This means that he freely gave public testimony, going "on the record," so to speak.

Today, many Lutheran churches include a rite of communal confession during Sunday worship. When we confess together, we publicly declare who we are *not* by naming our captivity to sin. We are not God. We have not loved God wholeheartedly and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Yet, confession also reminds us who we *are*. We are children of God. In the words of absolution, we hear the truth that we are completely forgiven by God, we are made alive in Christ, and we are strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pp. 95–96).

The practice of repentance is a return to our baptismal vocation. We declare not only who we are but whose we are. We belong to God, who renews us to live in service of the gospel. Like John, we are witnesses to the light of Christ, and we are called to reflect that light as it shines in our lives and in our world.

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Next week's readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55; Luke 1:26-38