

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 27, 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 Music**

**Pianist:** Tamara Even

**Welcome**

**Pastor Eric**

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**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**

## Opening Hymn “Once in David’s Royal City “ ELW # 269 vs 1,2,4

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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**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:** Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **First Reading: Isaiah 61:10–62:3**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<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.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 148**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights!

**2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host!**

**3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!**

**4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the  
heavens!**

**5 Let them praise the name of the LORD!**

For he commanded and they were created.

**6 And he established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**

**7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,**

**8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his  
command!**

**9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!**

**10 Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

**11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the  
earth!**

**12 Young men and maidens together old men and children!**

**13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

**14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his  
saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise  
the LORD!**

## **Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

**4**When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.<sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”<sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*"What Child is This"*

ELW # 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hymn** “*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*” ELW # 282 vs 1,3,4

1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

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Today we celebrate with Kelly and Jack Engell as they are baptized into the body of Christ. Their sponsors are Rob & Terri Swanson and Matt & Jennifer Bryner. Welcome!

## **Holy Baptism**

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Kelly/Jack, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Kelly/Jack, and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates*

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 presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

Kelly/Jack, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\*  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

***Assembly: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Amen***

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

***Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:***

Sustain Kelly/Jack, with 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.

**Amen.**

***The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:***

Kelly/Jack, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

***A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (as a representative of the congregation says:)***

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**Hymn**      “All Who Believe and Are Baptized”      ELW # 442

A musical score for a hymn. It features three staves of music in G major, common time. The top staff uses soprano C-clef, the middle staff bass F-clef, and the bottom staff bass F-clef. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are:  
1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly  
  
va - tion; bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a  
Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'  
  
new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp - tion they will stand a -  
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by  
  
mong the glo - ri - ous heav'n - ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.  
Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

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## 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.

## 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**

## 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

### Closing Hymn      “*Go Tell it on the Mountain*”      ELW #841

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev -'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

## **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 27th) 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

### **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.

### **2021 Offering Envelopes**

2021 offering envelopes are available for pickup on the table in the narthex next to the elevator. If you don't use envelopes now but would like to, call Larry Peterson at 772-2091 or the Church Office.

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

**Sunday, December 27th**

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class, Fellowship Hall *Questions from America*  
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, January 3rd**

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

*Questions from the Near East*

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

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

**December Mission Support:** Lutheran World Relief

**Salvation Army Pantry:** canned vegetables

### **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 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

### **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 \$10,402

Offering Year to Date \$190,371

Monthly General Budget \$20, 162

Foundation Offerings Year to Date: \$24,105

### **Birthdays This Week**

**Tues. Dec. 29:** Dick Walsh

# **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**December 27, 2020**

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

### **These Old, Tired Eyes**

After hours of watching the news on television or scrolling through social media posts on screens big or small, your eyes can get tired. They get worn out not only from staring at the blue light of screens, but also from the unending stream of bad news. You might go to the newspaper, your favorite news channel, or Twitter with hopes of finding something good happening. Too often, you find the overwhelming problems of the world. It gets old. Your eyes get tired of seeing it all.

Two wise, faithful elders were in the temple praying and eagerly awaiting the good news that God had always promised to bring. They were filled with expectation and hope. But they were getting quite old, and after a long time of hoping, hopes can diminish. Faith can dwindle; eyes can get tired. Yet somehow, Simeon and Anna kept coming to the temple each day to pray and to wait.

Then the day came. The Spirit had guided Simeon. Anna had been sustained by her faith. Their old, tired eyes stayed open to see God's saving acts in plain sight: Jesus was born to be the Savior and Messiah. Simeon says: "My eyes have seen your salvation!" (Luke 2:30). Anna gives thanks and prophesies about the redemption Jesus brings (Luke 2:38). In seeing God's faithfulness, their hope is affirmed and renewed.

Many faithful people wait a long, long time to see what God will do to continue the story of salvation. Many elders among us have lived through trying times, never giving up hope, never ceasing to pray, always expecting that God will be faithful. In Christ, our old, tired eyes have been refreshed. All the bad news that wears us out and ages our bodies and minds is met with the good news of Jesus: God brings healing and forgiveness to all. Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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Next week's readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 ;Psalm 147:12-20 ;Ephesians 1:3-14

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

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

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

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