# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 3, 2021



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

## **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.

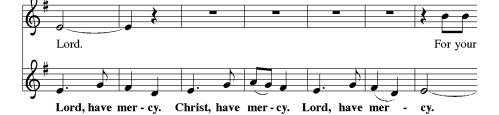
Kyrie ELW #157

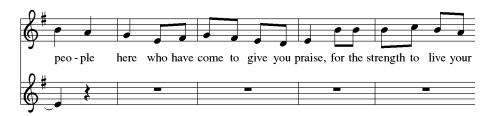


Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have

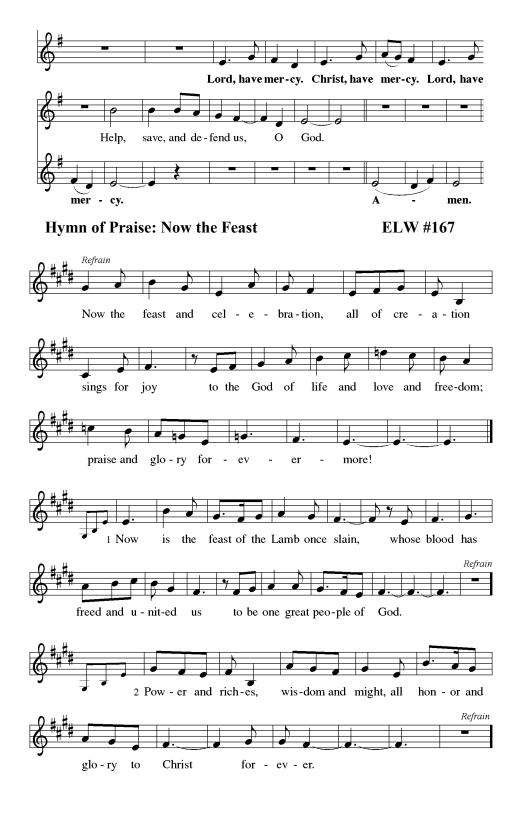














3 For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo-ple of



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: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the

dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Reader: The word of the Lord. Response: **Thanks be to God.** 

#### Psalm 147:12-20

<sup>12</sup> Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

<sup>13</sup> For he strengthens the bars of your gates;

he blesses your sons within you.

<sup>14</sup> He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

15 He sends forth his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup>He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> He casts forth his ice like morsels; who can stand before his cold?

<sup>18</sup> He sends forth his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

#### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him

who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The word of the Lord. Response: **Thanks be to God**.

Hymn "The First Noel" ELW# 300





Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer,  $1840\!-\!1901$ 

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## Holy Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<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>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon Pastor Eric

#### **New Year's Faith Resolution Primers**

Am I satisfied with my prayer life, devotional life?

Is there someone that I need to forgive or ask forgiveness of?

Do I have any doubts I need to explore?

Is there a passion tugging on my heart to get involved in?

How is God inviting me to care for creation?

How is God inviting me to care for my neighbor?

Maybe you aren't into making new year's resolutions. If so, I invite you to consider telling yourself every day this month; "I am God's beloved child and God will use me to touch someone's life today.





Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

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#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

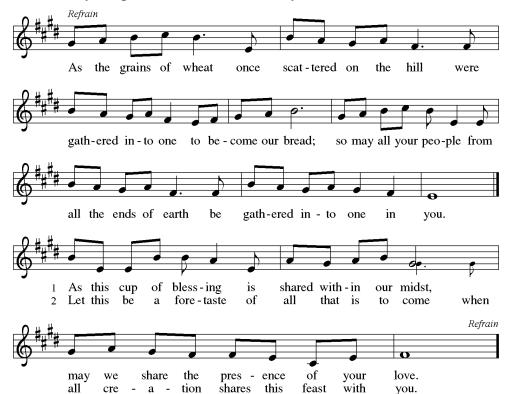
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

## Offering

#### "As the Grains of Wheat" **Offertory Response:** ELW #465



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**

The Lord be with you. **P**:

And also with you. C:

Lift up your hearts. P:

 $\mathbf{C}$ : We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

#### **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

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

sharing the bread and the wine may use these words)

**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



Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music; IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

**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 14

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#### **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today (Jan 3rd) for Fellowship time on ZOOM. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by <u>Clicking</u> 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, January 3rd

8:30 am... Adult Bible Class, Sunday School Classroom, HCH

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 10th

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

January Prayer Partner: Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer January Mission Support: Moringe Sokoine Secondary School,

Monduli, Tanzania

Salvation Army Pantry: Canned Fruits

#### **Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM**

Join us for the Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM at 10:00 am Thursday Morning. <u>Click HERE</u> 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



#### **Birthdays This Week**

Mon. Jan. 4: Bridget Walsh Tues. Jan. 5: Sonja Paul

Thurs. Jan. 7: Stan Eilenberger Fri. Jan. 8: Gillian Wittstock Sat. Jan. 9: Steve O'Brocta

# **Prayers for Health & Healing**

Tom Parker Tim Fisk Roald Norheim Kay Schwartz

Randy and Shannon Payne Ted Smith

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

#### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

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

#### 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+

# **Holy Communion**



The church is anywhere people gather in Jesus' name whether that happens in the Church Sanctuary or in your homes.

We will be celebrating Holy Communion this Sunday and again on January 17th. 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.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the PLC congregation will be held on Sunday, January 24th after worship.

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 10th.

#### **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 <a href="HERE">HERE</a> and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking <a href="HERE">HERE</a> .

## **Your Offerings**

Offering Month to Date \$22,270 Offering Year to Date \$2023,238 Monthly General Budget \$20, 162

Moringe Donations: \$6,076

#### **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 \$30,958 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.

**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 <a href="mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com">plcakoffice@gmail.com</a>. Salary based on experience \$13.00 - \$18.00 hour.

#### **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!

	This Week:	Next Week:
	January 3rd	January 10th
Musician	Sue Paulsen	Lila Trask
Reader	Bev Siercks	Alana Corl

A Counter is needed for this Sunday, if you can help, please call Paddy at 714-624-2461 or send an email to plcakoffice@gmail.com

#### **Coffee Order**

An order for Mt. Meru coffee will be placed next week. If you have not already done so, please contact Grant Trask to place your order. 772-3775 or trask@gci.net

# **January Prayer Partner**

Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Palmer, Alaska

The first pastor (Pastor Elliot D. Hull) was called in the fall of 1985. He knocked on doors inviting people to worship and the first service was held on February 2, 1986.

On November 8, 1987, the church was officially formed and the name Trinity Lutheran was chosen for it. Then, due to the economic recession of the 1990's, Trinity was offered the Colony Barn Plaza in exchange for the payment of the building's back taxes. Trinity accepted the building in 1991 and also purchased adjacent lands. In 1994, the building was renamed Trinity Barn Plaza and began a preschool and space to minister to the needs of the disabled, sick, and youth of Palmer.

# 3% Monthly Missionary Support

Each month Petersburg Lutheran gives 3% of the offerings received to a special ministry identified by the Church Council and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The January offering goes to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School located in Monduli, Tanzania. It is run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The school is a boarding school with approximately 400 students - both boys and girls. Tanzania is starting to provide secondary education for free, but the quality is lacking.

Secondary schools are taught in English, where primary schools are taught in Kiswahili. In addition to these languages, most Tanzanians also know the language of their individual tribes. Thus, most Tanzanian secondary students are fluent in at least three languages.

#### GOSPEL MESSAGE

**January 3, 2021** 

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

# **Truth beyond the Facts**

There are many questions today about facts. Who do we trust to give us the facts? What sources and individuals are reliable? Social media can be a great tool for sharing, but it has also become a means of spreading misinformation, false beliefs, and bad advice. Many people today are suspicious of what some claim to be the facts.

Even if we have the right facts, we might not have something more important: the truth. Facts can be a partial representation of the truth. Facts might tell us that it is sunny and warm this morning, but the weather forecast might say thunderstorms are coming in the afternoon. The latter statement is truth. Truth is the larger reality that smaller facts don't capture, and sometimes contradict.

John tells us that Jesus is God's Word, full of grace and truth. In Jesus we get the full truth of God, not merely the facts. What are the facts we might see? We are all sinful and have strayed from God's just and loving ways. The world is a mess. Left to our own ways, we are surely lost. These are the facts, as if we woke up to a dangerous thunderstorm but don't know what the weather forecast is after that. Jesus is the fuller truth that in spite of the stormy mess of the world and our individual lives, God's grace is a gift to us in Christ. There is a blue sky and a safe calm that is ours through divine love.

Some of us live with messages that tell us we are not the right kind of person to receive God's grace because of our past mistakes, or ethnicity, or gender identity, or level of education, or poverty. The truth of Jesus Christ tells us we are children of God. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:16). This is the truth that gives us life.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Next week's readings: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7 5: Mark 1:4-11

# **Petersburg Lutheran Church**

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