

*Glory to God
in the highest!*

LUKE 2:14



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!

Music

Pianist Tamara Evens

Welcome

Dave Berg

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.

Most Merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Presider: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW# 270

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of high-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE-3

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 preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20 *The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 *Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

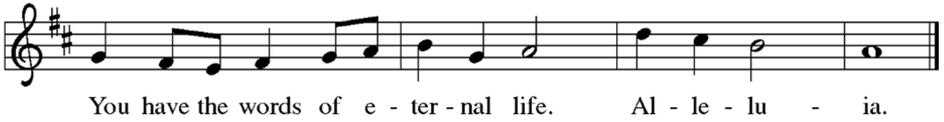
mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

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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, *Alle catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Gospel Acclamation



Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 *John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

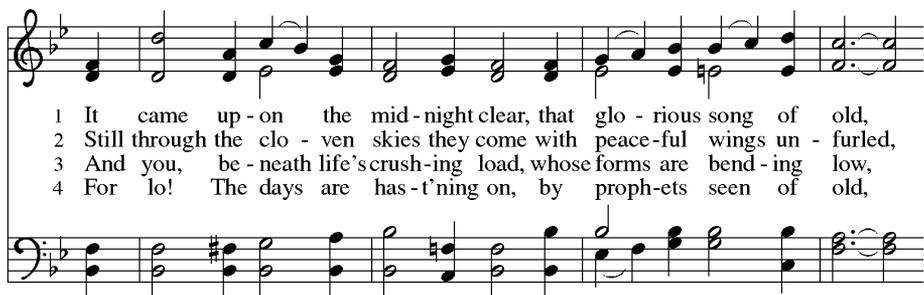
¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

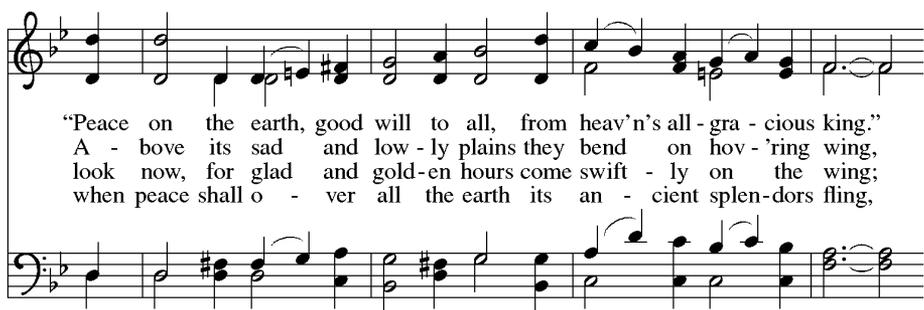
Hymn "It Cam Upon a Midnight Clear" ELW# 282



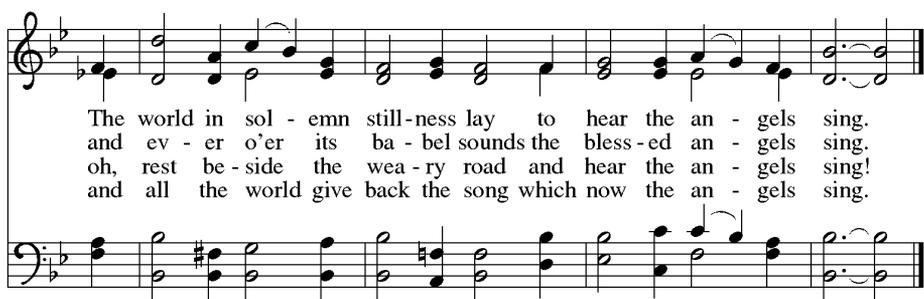
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



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.

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 in Your Mercy/ Hear Our Prayer

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.

Offering

Offertory Prayer: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them 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 gave 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 "O Come All Ye Faithful" ELW #283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he come;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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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



This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 12th

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class Studying Matthew

10 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

Christmas Eve Service

**There will only be one service this year, Friday December 24th
at 9:00 PM**

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.

Ushers needed. Sign up sheets will be on the back table. If anyone would like to volunteer as an usher, please sign up on the sheet or call Shannon Peeler, 518-0377. Thank you!

Preparing the Parsonage

For our new interim minister, Pastor Zach Harris and his wife Karen, who will be coming in January with their dog. The parsonage could use some pictures to hang on the walls. Also, it could use two nice comfy chairs and a small coffee table for the tv room. Let Joy in the office know if you can help provide these items. Thank you!

Eric & Carol Olsen's New Address

400 East 9th Street

PO Box 605

Big Timber, MT 59011

Ruth Circle Quilters

Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month
10am-2pm in the Church Basement.

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+

December Prayer Partner: Table of Grace, Bethel, AK
December Mission Support: Lutheran World Relief, This mission of the ELCA provides assistance to families throughout the world in via disaster relief and recovery and sustainable development projects. The Ruth Circle at PLC makes quilts for distribution by LWR; knitted baby Afghans are also sent from Petersburg.

Salvation Army Pantry:

They could use donations of: Pasta sides, like Rice-a-Roni, noodles, Ramen Noodles, canned fruit, canned meats other than tuna, small sizes of peanut butter and jelly.

Prayers for Health & Healing:

Joseph Tagaban, Mariann Solmonson, Chuck Beckett, Kristy McConville, Sally Dwyer, Sean Mikkelsen, Bryn Westre

Prayers for those Serving our Country

Jesse Anderson	Serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, San Diego, CA
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
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 in Swindon England
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Jacksonville, NC

Prayers for Our Church Council Church Council:

Chris Van Ettinger—President, Desi Burrell-Vice President
Robin Roberts— Treasurer, Nancy Berg-Worship,
Tom Parker-Youth, John Swanson-Building Maintenance,
Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings, Kara Newman, John Small



Happy Birthday!!

Wednesday Dec. 15th: Lana Corl, Desi Burrell, Shannon Peeler

Thursday Dec. 16th: Karen Severson

Friday Dec. 17th: Megan O’Neil

Saturday Dec. 18th: Annie Christensen

Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some 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:

December Monthly Budget \$21,145

December Offering to Date \$5,600

Yearly Budget \$253,750

Yearly Offering to Date \$199,723

2022 Offering Envelops

2022 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the table in the narthex next to the elevator. If you don’t have envelopes now but would like them in 2022, please call Larry Peterson at 772-2091 or let the church office know.



Coffee Order Get in your Mt. Meru coffee orders to Grant Trask. 772-3775 or trask@gci.net

Thank you Volunteers	This Week: Dec. 12 th	Next Week: Dec. 19 th
Musician	Tamara Evens	Lila Trask
Reader	Nancy Berg	
Counter	Judy Janke	Lana Corl
Coffee Crew	Last Name F-K	Last Name L-R
Video	Jim Roberts	Jim Roberts 14

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Fresh Start

A Fresh Start

In Greece, a John the Baptist celebration is held every year, typically in June. A spectator once observed how thousands of pilgrims paraded down a trail to the floor of a great cavern, where mass baptisms were celebrated. One can imagine that the sense of anticipation among those who arrive at the festival for baptism is similar to what those who came to John in the wilderness experienced: expectation, hope, awe, maybe even fear. However, John made it clear that while he baptized them for repentance, the one who was coming would bring something totally different. Whereas John's baptism of water represented cleansing from their past, the baptism of Jesus is about a new future.



In the order for baptism in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the baptized are washed with water paired with the promise of God's love. God's love is enduring and eternal. Sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the sign of the cross forever, the baptized are invited to remember this promise daily and the good news it brings: every day, we begin anew.

This good news means that we don't have to drag with us the burdens of yesterday. We don't have to live in a hamster wheel of guilt or despair that things will never change. Nor do we have to keep a list on a mental chalkboard of how many times we've messed up. Rather, having been baptized in Christ, we are set free to greet the new dawn with a sense of expectation and wonder, knowing that no matter what the day brings, we are made new, we are forgiven, and God is with us.

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Next Week's Readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Petersburg Lutheran Church

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WRAPPINGS

Along with the brightly wrapped gifts under our Christmas trees, there might be a nativity scene: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, angels. These nativity scenes, often idealized, hold a certain wonder and mystery. The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as recorded in scripture comes in somewhat stranger wrappings. The trip to Bethlehem, required by a powerful Roman emperor taxing the poor, essentially turned Mary and Joseph into transients, homeless strangers seeking shelter. The birth took place in a crude setting, and Mary wrapped her child in swaddling clothes, the traditional Palestinian way of securing a newborn. The wrapping for the story—an animal's feedbox for a bed and shepherds from the fields—makes clear that this child comes from among the lowly people of the earth.

There are many in our world who have no brightly wrapped presents this Christmas: the nursing home resident alone and forgotten; the homeless person concerned only for the next meal; the addict lost in a world of pain and denial; the teenager rejected by his parents and on the street. How will God come for those without anything?

Amid our poverty, emptiness, and imperfect lives, God comes to open our eyes to what we have—turning our hearts not just to the wrappings, but to things that truly matter, and to the needs of others. The birth of the Christ child is for all people, but especially for the lowly and marginalized people of the world.

Sometimes the gift is crudely wrapped, and sometimes it is not what we expect. Yet the awesome gift of Christmas is that God loves this world—with all its beauty, its terror, its risk, its hope. Christ is born. God is among us. And the world is wrapped in hope.

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Tracks 1, 2, and 3

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