



*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”
At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Petersburg Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Alaska Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



Interim Pastor
Zachariah Harris III

**December 4, 2022
10:00 am**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

406 Excel Street, PO Box 709

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Interim Pastor Zachariah Harris III

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

(Please stand if able, as indicated)

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

GUESTS: Hello! God is pleased that you chose to come to His house today and so are we. Rest at ease! You are our guest. You will hear God's word read, sing songs of praise, and receive words of encouragement. Welcome to worship with Petersburg Lutheran. Please be sure to sign our worship register. If you are interested in becoming involved with our church family please see Pastor for more information. May God's peace comfort you and your family.

We Prepare for Worship

Welcome and Greetings
stand

Gathering Song

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" **ELW# 249**

Confessions

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.

C Amen

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P People of God,
 a new thing is growing in our midst,
 a tender branch,
 a living sign.
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
 You have put on ✠ Christ,
 and your sins have been washed away.
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen

We Praise God
Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise
 “Glory to God”



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al- might-y God and Fa- ther, we



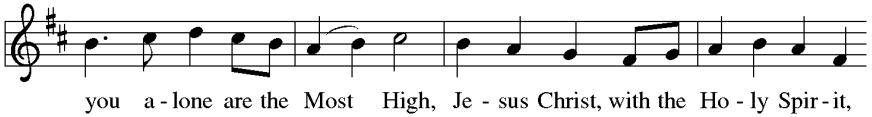
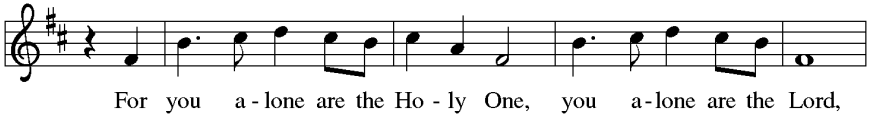
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer- cy on us;



Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

Choir Anthem

Ancient Words

God Speaks to Us

“Light One Candle” v2 ELW# 240

Light two candles to watch for the Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

Children’s Sermon—The Bethlehem Candle
The Wollen Family lights the Second Candle on the Advent
Wreath.

The First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

The Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

A Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

stand

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel

C Glory to you O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P Here ends the Gospel

C Praise to you O Christ.

sit

Sermon
Silence for Meditation
stand

Hymn Of the Day
“*Earth and All Stars*” ELW # 731
See Insert

We Offer To God

Apostles’ Creed

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C 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

The Prayers of the Church

P As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence

P God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones especially those we name before you at this time...God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

(The offering is a part of our service when God's people respond to His goodness with gifts to support God's work in the world. Malachi 3:10 promises us that our 10% tithe of our wealth will not go unrewarded, and we are encouraged to give offerings above the tithe. An offering is not expected of our guests, but if you consider Petersburg Lutheran to be your church home, know that all your gifts support ministries both locally and globally.)

Offering Song

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW# 186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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The Offering Prayer

P Let us Pray: Eternal God,
C you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

The 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:
C 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

sit

Distribution

(The celebration of the Lord's Supper is not limited to our members. The Lutheran belief is that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children who have not received their first communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing. Come forward via the center aisle. Receive the bread and wine. Return to your seat via the side aisle. If you are unable to receive wheat, please ask for a gluten-free host. If you are unable to receive wine, please use the clear non-alcoholic grape juice in the center of the tray.)

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

ELW #(from setting 4, small pg.154) One License A-729021

Blessing
stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P Let us pray: Faithful God,

C in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Benediction

P God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C Amen

sit

Announcements

stand

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World” ELW# 267

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Prayer Requests

Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!

2022 3% December- 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.

December- Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River

Prayers for Church Council: Bev Siercks-President,

Bill Moulton-Vice President, Robin Roberts– Treasurer, Ginger Evens-Secretary, Nancy Berg, Desi Burrell, Chris Van Ettinger, Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings, John Small

Prayers for Health & Healing: Joseph Tagaban, Annette Olson, Andy Massey, Dee Foley, Lenore Mathisen, Chris Christensen, Liv Perschon, Ed & Elaine Klemmer, Linda Bieber,

Please pray for our Call Committee: Becky Martin, Jim Engell, Jennifer Bryner, Brenda Norheim, Jim Roberts and Jody Tow.

Prayers for those Serving our Country

Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving San Diego, CA
Michael Serafini	Serving in El Paso, Texas
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in Fairchild AFB, Spokane WA
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Serving in North Carolina
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
Jon Floyd	Serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Grayson	Serving in Maryland
Michael Gardner	Serving in Fort Meade, MD

This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 4th

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class

10 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

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

Wednesday, December 7th 6:00pm Executive meeting in HCH

6:30pm Special Council Meeting in HCH

Thursday, December 8th 5:45pm Soup and Bread in HCH. Service 6:15

Choir practice following service.

Thursday and Friday, December 8th & 9th, Contractor Education

8:30am – 4:30pm in HCH

Saturday, December 10th

6:00 pm Bible Study in Ed. Room

Non Church Related Uses

Wednesday, December 7th

10am-2pm Rain Country Quilters meet in the Ed. Room

Soup and Bread

Thursday, December 8th, 15th and 22nd, Soup and Bread in the HCH, soup and bread starts at 5:45pm and service starts 6:15pm.

Choir practice following service.



Coffee Order Get in your Mt. Meru coffee orders to Grant Trask. 772-3775 or trask@gci.net "The Project provides small farmers with a fair price for their premium coffee. A fair price provides an increase in farm income, allowing the farmers to support their families with dignity. Purchasing and drinking Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee is the single most important way in which individuals, congregations and businesses can support thousands of family coffee farmers in Tanzania. Coffee is available through many congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA and online."

There is a monthly Newsletter with more details to date on PLC. Check your email



Monday, Dec. 5th: Devyn Flint
Tuesday, Dec. 6th: Julia Murph
Thursday, Dec. 8th: Metta Miller
Friday, Dec. 9th: Jody Tow

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 <https://www.petersburglutheran.com/giving>

Your Offerings:

November Offering to Date \$ 20,535
 November Monthly Budget \$21,717
 Yearly Offering to Date \$174,282
 Yearly Budget \$260,599

Mission of Petersburg Lutheran Church

*“to Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to
 Show the Love of Christ”*

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Volunteers	Today: Dec 4 th	Next Week: Dec. 11 th
Musician	Sue Paulsen	Tamara Evens
Reader	Ginger Evens	Tamara Evens
Vocalist	Katey Gilpin	Katey Gilpin
Counter	Polly Koeneman	
Coffee Crew	Last Name A-E	Last Name: F-K
Video	Jim Roberts	Jim Roberts
Ushers	Kathy Emmenegger	Kathy Emmenegger
Altar Care	Lila Trask	Lila Trask
Communion Helpers		

Gospel Message
December 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Impossible Vision?

Today's image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, "Eat or *be eaten*" is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!

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Lessons for Next Week, Dec. 11th: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Petersburg Lutheran Church

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