

Petersburg Lutheran Church

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



**January 22, 2023
10:00 am**

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

406 Excel Street, PO Box 709
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

January 22, 2023 Third Sunday After Epiphany
(Please stand if able, as indicated)

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

We Prepare for Worship

Welcome and Greetings

stand

Gathering Song “*I Want to Walk as a Child*” **ELW#815**

Confessions

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen

P Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One, source of our renewal,

C we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love,

forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another

for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C Amen

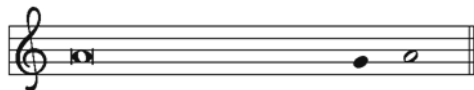
We Praise God

Greeting

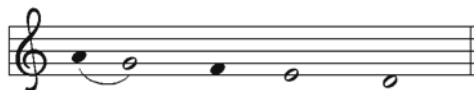
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



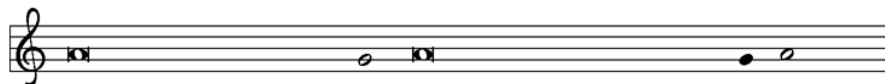
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



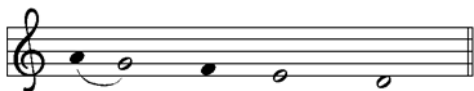
Lord, have mer - cy.



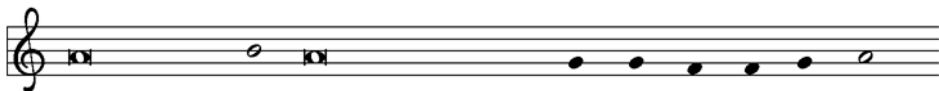
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



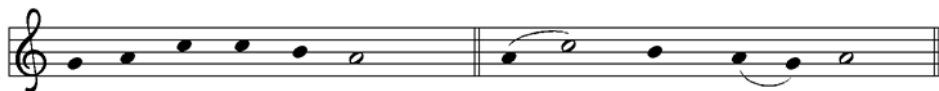
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Sit

God Speaks to Us

Children's Sermon

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

The Second Reading Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power, ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 4:12-23

P The Holy Gospel

C Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P Here ends the Gospel

C Praise to you O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Bev Siercks

Silence for Meditation

stand

Hymn Of the Day

“Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW #798

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 Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

P Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change. Uphold in our thoughts and prayers Trinity Lutheran Church as they are entering the interim and call period. Guide Pastors Tim and Deborah as they start this new chapter in their ministry. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Almighty God, you are the only source of health and healing, grant to Joseph Tagaban, Jaime Eddy, Christen Christensen, Linda Bieber, Stan Hjort, Pastor Laura Lynn, Bill and Annette Olson, Lovie Brock, Gary Putnam, and family and friends of Tasha Prus, Darlene and Paul Anderson, your awareness of your presence, and those we name before you at this time...Merciful God

C receive our prayer.

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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. Our offerings are gifts to help support ministries both locally and globally.)

Offering Song

"As the Grains of Wheat" ELW #465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were




gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

The Offering Prayer

P Let us Pray: Liberating God,

C you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus 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. 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.

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: Holy One,

C we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Benediction

P The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C Amen

sit

Announcements

stand

Sending Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story" ELW# 661

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

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!

2023 3% January: Accessible Hope International Wheaton, IL
Opening the doors of access for people with disabilities worldwide. With Biblical disability training and resources for the global church.

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, Jaime Eddy, Christen Christensen, Linda Bieber, Stan Hjort, Pastor Laura Lynn, Bill and Annette Olson, and Lovie Brock, Gary Putnam please pray for family and friends of Tasha Prus, Darlene and Paul Anderson.

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, January 22nd

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class

10:00 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship Service in the HCH

2:00 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

Wednesday, January 25th

10 am-2 pm Ruth Circle Quilters meet in the basement.

Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, January 28th

6:00 pm Bible Study in Ed. Room

Non Church Related Uses

Tuesday, January 24th,

10:20 am Elementary School lock down, HCH

Wednesday, January 25th

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

Cookies for College Students

Call or email the office with your college student's name and address for cookies before the Feb 5th. If you'd like to provide cookies for the college students, please have your cookies to the office or basement Feb. 6th by 10 am.

Our Offering Envelopes- The 2023 offering envelopes still have not been printed but the envelope company assured me that "they will be caught up on their printing problems by, hopefully, Feb 1." They are blaming a paper supply shortage for their printing problems. I have explored other envelope companies, but it takes over a month of lead time to print custom envelopes and their prices are quite a bit higher. So, in the meantime, please continue to put your folded checks in the offering plate or put checks or cash in a plain envelope with your name or number, so it can be recorded to your account. As a side note, last year's numbers 71 thru 80 had to be renumbered because we needed less envelopes this year. New numbers have been assigned to these people. Again, if any member who doesn't receive offering envelopes but would like to, please call Larry Peterson at 907-518-4186 or the church office to request them.



Monday, Jan. 23rd: Tom Parker
Tuesday, Jan. 24th: Barb Marifern, Lee Ribich
Thursday, Jan. 26th: Dona Butler
Friday, Jan. 27th: Tyler Ward
Saturday, Jan. 28th: Doug Welde

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>

Mission of Petersburg Lutheran Church

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

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Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/PLC2018plus>
 or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+.

Volunteers	Today: Jan. 22 nd	Next Week: Jan 29 th
Musician	Tamara Evens	Tamara Evens
Reader	Bridget Wittstocok	Ginger Evens
Vocalist	Katey Gilpin	Katey Gilpin
Counter	Susan Holmes	
Coffee Crew	Last Name S-Z	Church Council
Video	Jim Roberts	Jim Roberts
Ushers	Robin Roberts	Robin Roberts
Altar Care	Jim Engell	Jim Engell

Gospel Message

January 22, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worth the Risk

Perhaps Peter, Andrew, James, and John had heard rumors of this wandering preacher Jesus. Maybe they had been growing restless for some time in their lives as fishermen. It's possible they sensed that something was shifting in the world around them. They could have been fed up with the brutality of the Roman Empire and were looking for a leader to bring about change. Maybe they longed for something more, for a better way of living and loving and being. Maybe they were just so taken aback by this invitation to drop everything and follow that they couldn't help but say yes. We don't know their reasons for joining the Jesus movement that day, but there was clearly something so compelling about this kingdom of heaven (Matthew 4:17) that they were willing to drop their nets, risk everything, and not look back.

Perhaps we too hear in the gospel today a renewed invitation to get swept up in this kingdom, a call to drop old ways of being and embrace a life of following Jesus. Maybe this vision of the kingdom catches us when we witness ancient scripture finding new life in our hurting world. Perhaps we glimpse the possibilities of the heavenly kingdom when communities of unlikely people gather to share bread and wine at the same table, and when we see the hungry being fed, the suffering being cared for, the lonely finding welcome, the oppressed finding freedom. Suddenly, we know that this is God at work.

As Jesus reminds us, the kingdom of heaven is not a far-off kingdom. It draws near to us, breaking in around us perhaps in the moments when we least expect it. And when we catch sight of it, we just might never be the same. A world where the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the outcasts find belonging, and ordinary days are filled with holy purpose? That's a kingdom worth risking everything for.

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*Lessons for Next Week, January 29: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15,
1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12*

Petersburg Lutheran Church

Website www.petersburglutheran.com

Office: (907)-772-3144 Email: plcakoffice@gmail.com

petersburgpastors@gmail.com

406 Excel Street PO Box 709