

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Full Service Bulletin
Pastor Erik Sorenson



December 24, 2023

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service this evening.

If you are partaking of the Lord's Supper, please read and fill out one of the registration cards on the back of the pew. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to the usher.

To listen via radio, please tune to AM 750.

Communion Statement - The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are kindly asked first to speak with the pastor. In addition to this being our practice, we do not want our visitors to violate their own conscience or the public confession of faith that is made through their home Church membership. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing from the pastor. We thank you for respecting our practice. For further study, see Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:17–34.

Confession and Absolution

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

Hymn of Invocation



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
 Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001749 Tune: Public domain

Invocation

LSB 184

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and

eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

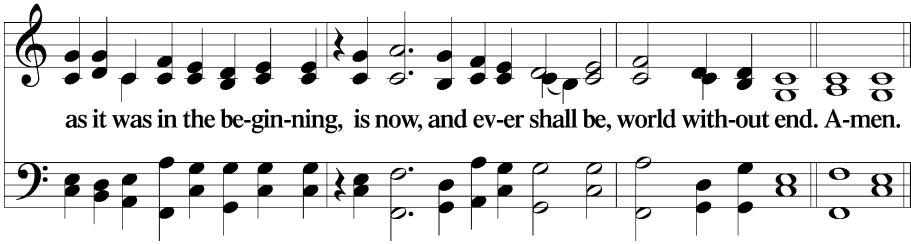
Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186

C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

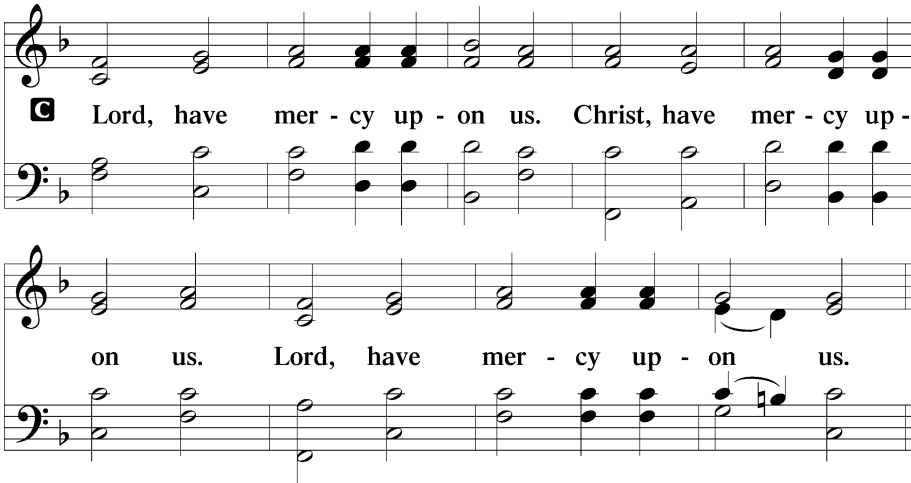
The image shows musical notation for the Gloria Patri. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. Below the staves, the lyrics are written: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;". A common time signature 'C' is placed at the beginning of the lyrics.



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

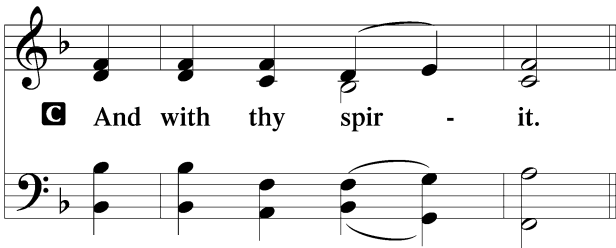
Gloria in Excelsis - Omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 189



The Lord be with you.

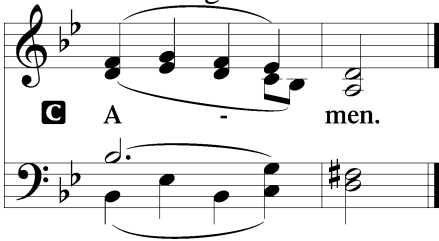


And with thy spir - it.



Let us pray.

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 (p. 259, p. 330 LP)

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27 (p. 951, p. 1209 LP)

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

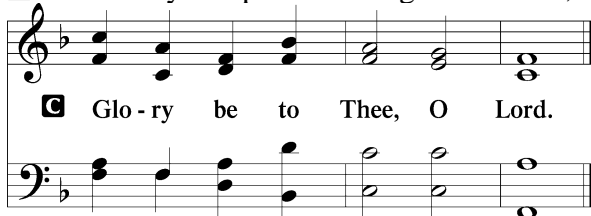
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38 (p. 855, p. 1088 LP)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

LSB 192

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn of the Day

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

God and the Impossible

Offertory

LSB 192

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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir-it.



P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,

bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

☐ 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

glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
 and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
 dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \dagger bod-y, which is giv-en for you.
 This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
 He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it
 to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
 My \dagger blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
 This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

The musical score for "Pax Domini" is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and a half note G4. The piano accompaniment features a melody of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and a half note G4. The bass line provides harmonic support with a melody of quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, and a half note G3. The lyrics are: "The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. A - men."

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

The musical score for "Agnus Dei" is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and a half note G4. The piano accompaniment features a melody of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and a half note G4. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us."

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution & Hymns

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our

realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,

Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
 Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt
 Text and tune: Public domain

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con -
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001749

Tune: Public domain

339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,
 2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?
 3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill
 4 "Wor - thy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain



And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,
 What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,
 To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands
 Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways



To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's
 Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble
 Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -
 As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less



palm And sing the an - cient psalm: "Lift up your
 steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,
 in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this
 song Sung by the ran - somed throng: "Wor - thy is



heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!" Your King a - waits!
 Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.
 King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!
 Christ!" The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Paul Liljestränd, 1931–2011 Text: © 2003 Stephen P. Starke, admin.
 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001749 Tune: © 1970 The Hymn
 Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001749

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly



host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 201

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

The musical notation for the Salutation consists of three staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains a single melodic line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The second staff is a treble clef with the same key signature, containing a vocal line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The third staff is a bass clef with the same key signature, containing a bass line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The musical notation for the Benedicamus consists of three staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains a single melodic line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The second staff is a treble clef with the same key signature, containing a vocal line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The third staff is a bass clef with the same key signature, containing a bass line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation for the Benediction consists of four staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains a single melodic line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The second staff is a treble clef with the same key signature, containing a vocal line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The third staff is a treble clef with the same key signature, containing a vocal line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note. The fourth staff is a bass clef with the same key signature, containing a bass line with a whole note followed by a dotted half note.

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Closing Hymn



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

