



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
10:00 a.m. Worship

Our Mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others

St. Peter's Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan Suloff
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ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3025 CHURCH ROAD
LAFAYETTE HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Prelude

Welcome

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness



Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Everlasting God,

Assembly: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

Pastor: Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—The Wonder of the Season

Cantor: "The Wonder of Christmas" J. Raney

Pastor: During Advent we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

Assembly: **The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Pastor: To the hurting, God promises unshakable hope.

Assembly: **The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Pastor: To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

Assembly: **The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Pastor: To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

Assembly: **The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Pastor: To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

Assembly: **The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

The second candle of Advent is lit

Pastor: Today we light two candles. The first candle reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In a world that seldom slows, Advent is an opportunity to still our hearts and open our eyes to the wonder and majesty of our Savior. As we light the second candle, we call to mind God's promise to restore, redeem and reconcile a broken world, spoken through the prophets and fulfilled through Christ.

Congregation: JOEL RANEY

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O — come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we pray for your continued guidance through out this Advent season. As we prepare to once again celebrate the greatest gift offered to the world, we pray for our hearts to be filled with wonder, for our steps to be guided by faith, and for our hope to be anchored in the certainty of your Word. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Kyrie:

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day:

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Please be seated

Announcements

Children's Message

First Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-11**

n grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

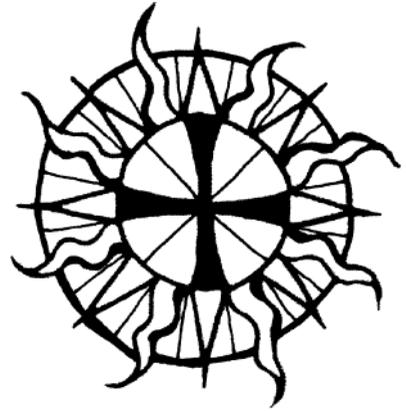
³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."



⁶A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.



Lector: The word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new

earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Reading: **Mark 1:1-8**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Message:

Pastor Suloff

Please stand

Hymn of the Day:

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

The 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.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 Intercession:

Pastor: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Please kneel or be seated

(The Prayers of the Church are said)

Pastor: Merciful God;

***Assembly:* Receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

***Assembly:* Amen.**

Please stand

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

***Assembly:* And also with you.**

Please be seated

Offering:

Offering Music:

"Another in the Fire"

- Hillsong United

Please stand

Offering Song:

“Create in Me”



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. Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer:

Pastor:

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assembly:

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

Assembly: And also with you

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Assembly: It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Words of Institution

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

Assembly: **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.**

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.

The Distribution:

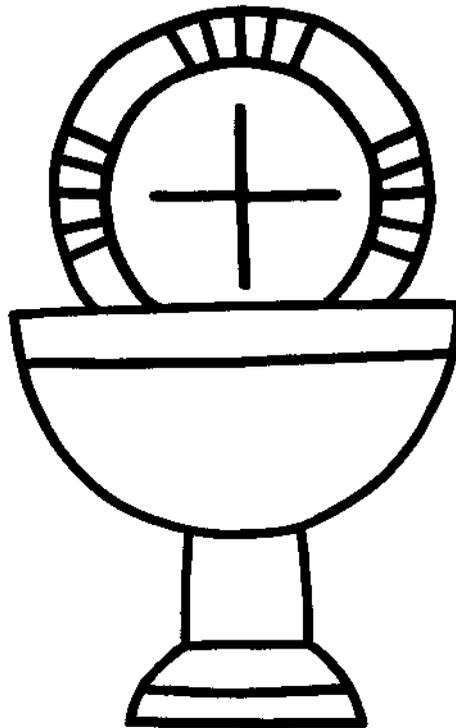
All those who believe in the presence of the Lord at the table, are invited to share in the sacrament. If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing from the pastor please join the line in the middle aisle of the sanctuary, receive the bread, and then move to the chalice and dip your wafer in the wine. If you prefer to remain in your pew or are joining us for worship online please take the individual Communion Cup or the elements of your choosing and share them with one another and with the community. If young children are present who have not yet received their First Communion please bring them forward or take a moment and share a blessing with them. Be the community of Christ with all those gathered near and far. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

(At this time receive the bread, cracker, or that which you are using as the body of Christ)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

(At this time receive the wine, juice, water, or that which you are using as the blood of Christ)



Please Stand

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer:

Pastor: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assembly: Amen.



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

The Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

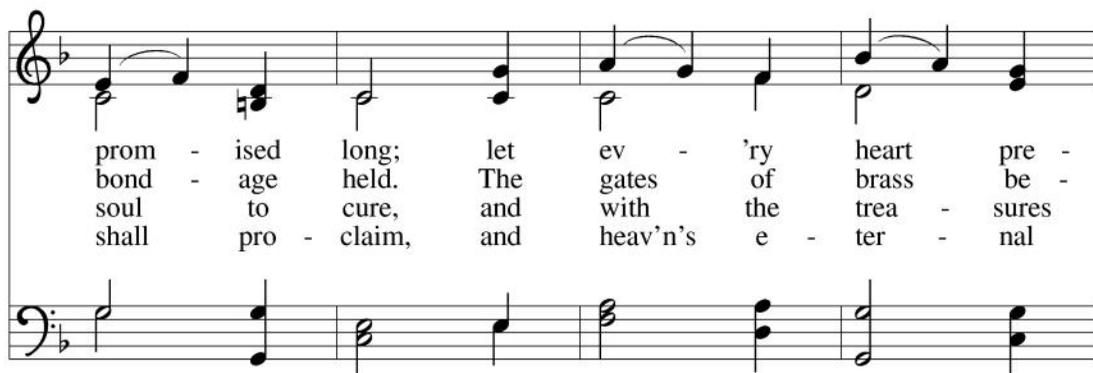
Assembly: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Pastor: Go in peace to share the life, love, and joy of Jesus Christ with all.
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Flower Dedication

*Today's flowers are given by Elsa M. Hoffman in honor of her cousin
 William D. Kelley Jr's Birthday .*

HELP US KEEP THE PRAYER LIST CURRENT:

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list please contact the church office at office-assist.splh@gmail.com or simply use the Prayer Request Form that can be found on the church website.

Please remember in your prayers those members, family and friends on our prayer list:

The Altman Family	Ted Hyczko	Julie Proll
Joanne Barnhardt	Betty Jane Knittel	Leigh Richard
David Beyer	The Kortrey Family	The Shollenberger Family
The Chamberlain Family	George Kulczycky	Ursula Schwartz
Debbie Davis	The Kwartnik Family	Steve Schultz
Marge Devitt	John Soo Lee & Family	William Scott
Cooper Durham	Rose Letouille	Karen Specos
Hunter Durham	Melissa Mooran	Karen Speers
Robert Emberger	Frank Munafo	John Swancott
George Ginther	The Munn Family	Jackie Strauss
Harvey A. Headley Jr.	The Neborak Family	Teresa Weber
Lindy Hughes	Lindsay Peterson	The Wentz Family
Walt Humm		The Winfree Family

Support St. Peter's with RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip)!!

RaiseRight (formerly Shop-
WithScrip) has been in opera-
tion at St. Peter's since
2007. So far, the RaiseRight
program has contributed
\$39,600.00 to St. Peter's. This
includes \$2,100.00 raised in

2022. When someone buys RaiseRight cards, they pay the face value of the card and they get the face value of the card. St. Peter's receives a percentage of that face value from RaiseRight. The customer doesn't need to do anything except purchase the cards. The "donation" part of the process is all done behind the scenes.

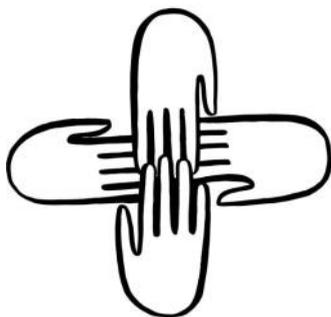
Gift card purchases through RaiseRight don't have to be hundreds of dollars - \$5 and \$10 cards are available and all amounts help pay down the church mortgage. Download the RaiseRight app, sign up (our Enrollment Code is D96653C515851) and be part of something impactful for St. Peter's. Or, visit Jane Stettler at the front door of the church before or after the service. You can also contact Jane and she will send you a sign-up email to walk you through the process.



RaiseRight.

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Volunteer!



We are looking for people to help out everywhere!!!

We are looking for folks to help out as Worship

Assistants, to help lead us in song as part of the choir or as an instrumentalist, to help with Finance, Property, Worship & Music, Sunday School, Cemetery Care, Social Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Team, our Audio/Visual elements on Sunday

morning, and pretty much anything else you can think of! If you are willing to help serve as a Communion Assistant, Usher, or Greeter please use the link below or use the sign-up available in the church narthex. If you are interested in helping with any of our ministries

please contact Pastor Suloff. Don't worry, you're not signing up for a lifetime or a bunch of long meetings, just a willingness to help out when you can, where you can, in a place you are passionate about!

41st Boars Head and Yule Log Festival 2024

Saturday January 6th & Sunday January 7th 2024



Hear ye! Here ye!

Plans are underway for the 41st annual Boars Head and Yule Log festival!

January 6th 1pm, 4 pm, 7 pm & January 7th 1pm and 4 pm

What a beautiful way to start the New Year!

Please consider volunteering to participate and share in this unique traditional event!

Would you like to be a part of the cast or crew?

There is a sign up book in the Chapel.

Email Kate Garrison with any questions.

Would you like to be in the Boars Head choir?

Please contact Ya Jhu Yang.

Tickets are now available by using the church website or by contacting the church office.

Worship has ended, let the service begin!



St. Peter's Statement of Welcome

All people are created by God. We affirm with the apostle Paul, that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one. In keeping with our mission statement “to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others”, we welcome all people regardless of characteristics which might cause exclusion or discrimination outside of St. Peter’s.

We affirm that all people share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God. All people are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith as all other members make. Members of this congregation are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.