



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY



ST. PETER LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2023

The Savior's Sermon: You are... So be...!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

- **Restrooms** are located in the entryway.
- **Two Nursery-Rooms** are available in the entryway for parents with small children.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he confiscates us for himself. He wants us--body, soul, and will. He made a one-sided covenant with us by calling us from darkness into light, by choosing us as his people, and making us his special possession. That's what we are , So now he calls to us: "You are...So be...!"

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Jesus: You have called us light. Help us to shine with your love. You have called us salt. Help us to preserve the world with your Word. You have called us into your kingdom. Enable us now to put into practice what you teach, confident in what you have given us. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Matt Natsis
Organist: Dan Kreger

OPENING HYMN

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Christian Worship 919

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:1-8a

¹On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Refrain*Tone*

**Blessed are those who / fear the LORD,
 who find great delight in / his commands.
 Wealth and riches are in their / houses,
 and their righteousness endures for- / ever. *Refrain***

**Surely the righteous will never be / shaken;
 they will be remembered for- / ever.
 Their hearts are secure, they will / have no fear;
 in the end they will look in triumph / on their foes.
 Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
 and to the Holy / Spirit,
 as it was in the be- / ginning,
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version

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⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY**Matthew 5:16**

C: Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Strong Word
Christian Worship 630

SERMON

1 Peter 2:9-12

“A People Chosen by God”

NICENE CREED

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully
human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

The members of St. Peter Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests at St. Peter are welcome to participate in the offering but need not feel obligated to do so

Another option is to text an offering to (833) 948-2171. Text in the dollar amount. If you haven't signed up, you will receive a text asking you to do so. After signing up, you will not have to do that again. Simply text the dollar amount to the phone number listed.

*A third option is to give an offering through the Donate tab on our church website: **stpeterchurchmodesto.org**.*

THE SACRAMENT

St Peter Lutheran Church practices close communion. We invite confirmed members to come forward to partake of the Sacrament. Thank you for your consideration.

PREFACE

This dialog (also known as the "preface") leads into the heart of the Sacrament portion of the service. In its exalted sentences we have the oldest and least changed part of the liturgy. There is evidence of its use in the 100's AD.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your 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 who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

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

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During the distribution you are invited to join in singing the indicated hymns or to use the time for private prayer and meditation. Appropriate prayers are found on page 255 in the front of the hymnal. A personal preparation for the Lord's Supper is found on page 295.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Draw Near
Christian Worship 662

After all have communed, there will be a time for meditation.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Me Be Yours Forever

Christian Worship 715

Please note the tune differs slightly from that of the red hymnal with which you may be familiar.

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Notes and News for February 4, 2023

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



We are looking at a few of Jesus' "I am" statements. We will see them in their context, and how they still apply to bring comfort to us today.

We hope you can join us for Bible Study on Saturdays before the worship service in the fellowship hall.

Time in God's Word During the Week

Ladies' Bible Studies

Ladies' Bible Study meets Wednesdays, at 3:30pm in the conference room. We will be studying the Book of Acts, and all St. Peter women are welcome to join us!

Attendance This Past Week

Saturday January 28, 2023

- 45 attendance in worship
- 15 signed in online
- 18 views on Livestream



ST. PETER LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 10:00am

Livestream at 10:00am

MISSION STATEMENT:

As people saved by God's undeserved love, we want to share the Word of forgiveness and tell of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' love, we seek to strengthen and serve each other and our neighbors daily, acting through faith in our Lord Jesus, as guided by the Holy Bible.

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News and Upcoming Events

This Week in Our Prayers

- for Rose Stepanovich (wife of David Stepanovich), who has health conditions
- for Esther Gonzalez, who is recovering from cancer surgery
- for ongoing health concerns: Briana Price, Barbara Price, Felisha Gonzalez, Esther Hassan, Ines Olsson, Jack Ashworth and Evelyn Qualters
- for protection for those serving to protect our nation
- for peace in our nation and the world

Call Update

The members of St. Peter issued a divine call to Rev. Gerald Arnold, currently serving Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Germantown, WI. Please keep Pastor Arnold and his family, along with St. Peter and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in your prayers.

Ladies of St. Peter--

Are you ready for a fun afternoon? Wine tasting and chocolate sampling on Sunday, February 5th. We'll be meeting at Mary Henderson's house at 2:30 for an afternoon of fellowship and encouragement--ladies, grapes, and cacao beans. Are you interested? RSVP to either Karen Adams or Mary Henderson.

Ladies of St. Peter--

Are you interested in receiving a weekly email with news from the church and updates on upcoming ladies' events, as well as a devotional message? If so, contact Karen Adams.

2023 Flower Chart

A new flower chart for 2023 is available for sign-ups in the narthex. If you wish to sign up to have flowers placed on the altar, please include your name and dedication. Envelopes and a payment box are on the shelf. If you have questions or requests, please contact Carol Coutrakis.

Refreshment Host Sign-Up Sheet

If you would like to volunteer to host refreshments, please sign up in the fellowship hall.

Our Ushers

Date	
February 4	Jason Toepel, Robert Sarwanoke
February 11	Keith Werth, Rob Mallory
February 18	Donny Zuccaro, Kim Winsor

Our Refreshment Hosts

Date	After Worship
February 4	Jon and Nancy Miller
February 11	<i>Open</i>
February 18	<i>Open</i>