



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

7710 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
749-5816

December 7, 2025 – 8:00am & 10:30am

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist
Chris Brune, Principal
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 7, 2025 – 8:00am & 10:30am

PRELUDES

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

arr. Thomas Gieschen

3 Variations on “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Once He Came In Blessing”

#333

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Christ is coming soon. Let us prepare our hearts as we confess our sins against God and one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P Most merciful God,

C We confess our failure to watch for your coming and to make ready your way. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not welcomed one another as we have been welcomed. Restore us, O God. Open our hearts to receive you. Clothe us in Christ that we may live in the light of your day. Amen.

P The light of God’s face shines upon us, and we are saved. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called

and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#357

(Stanzas 2 & 6)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(The candles of HOPE and PEACE will be lit during the blessing.)

P We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR ✠

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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

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



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

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

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



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

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



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

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,
that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall
bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the

LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and 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 of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to 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 praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the 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 in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to 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 he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy

to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(10:30 – During the Hymn of the Day, children age 3 through first grade are invited
to attend “Kids of the Kingdom” children’s church. They will return following the sermon.)*

HYMN OF THE DAY **“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”** **#344**
(We rise for stanza 5)

SERMON **“Time to Lean”**
Text: Matthew 3:1-12 – Pastor Nathan Widener

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and
GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS**

VOLUNTARY
“Once He Came in Blessing” arr. Johannes Petzold

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray together:
C God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand
in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our
thanksgiving and praise. Fill us with good things at your table that we may
come to the help of all in need. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Calling to mind the hopes and longings of all people, let us pray for the church, the
world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence.)

P Rouse our imagination to new visions of peace in the world, and send your Spirit of wisdom, knowledge, and justice to rest upon the leaders of nations. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Stir the church to preach the message of John the Baptist, that we may bear the good fruit that comes from repentance. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Awaken us to care for those who are poor and forgotten, or the victims of violence and injustice, that they may know the good news that your kingdom has come near. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Look with compassion on all who are hospitalized or ill, that they may abound in hope at your coming among us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Inspire this community of faith, that we may glorify God with one voice, and welcome others as you have welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P We remember with thanksgiving John the Baptist and all the saints who prepared the way of the Lord. Gather us, with them, into your great harvest of eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Grant us steadfastness and patience, faithful God, as we wait in joyful hope for the fulfillment of your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, 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 singing:

SANCTUS



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING and LORD'S PRAYER

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You send Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ, the kingdom of heaven has drawn near. With thankful hearts we pray then:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM and HYMNS

(10:30) "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Wildcat Bells

#343

#342

#359

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Heavenly Father, through these gifts you gladden our hearts and refresh our spirits.
Grant us eagerness for your advent in our lives as we watch for the coming of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.
- P** Go in peace. Walk in the light of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “Hark the Glad Sound” #349

POSTLUDE

“Hark the Glad Sound” arr. John Leavitt