



## **St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School**

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

December 14, 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## Adult Choir Christmas Cantata:

### “Sing with the Angels!”

December 14, 2025 – 8:00am & 10:30am

#### PRELUDES

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. Robert Powell

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

arr. Malcolm Archer

#### RINGING OF THE BELL

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#338

#### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

#### BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*(The candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY are lit.)*

**P** We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** Amen.

#### ADVENT HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#357

*(Stanzas 3 & 5)*

**P** Praise the LORD!  
 Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
**C** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**P** Put not your trust in princes,  
 in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
**C** When his breath departs he returns to the earth;  
 on that very day his plans perish.

**P** Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
 whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
**C** Who made heaven and earth,  
 the sea, and all that is in them,  
 who keeps faith forever;

**P** who executes justice for the oppressed,  
 who gives food to the hungry.  
 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
**C** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
 the LORD loves the righteous.

**P** The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
 he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
**C** The LORD will reign forever,  
 your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
**C** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray together:  
**C** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **“Sing with the Angels!” A Christmas Cantata by Joel Raney**

Sung by St. Peter’s Adult Choir  
Allyn Beifus, Piano  
Rev. Nate Widener, Narrator

*(If the spirit moves you to applaud, please hold your applause until the conclusion of the cantata.)*

### **“Of the Father’s Love”**

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he.

O that birth forever blessed, when a virgin, blest with grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race.  
Emmanuel, evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing:  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Emmanuel, evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

Christ to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.  
Emmanuel, evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

## **“The Angel Gabriel”**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary.”  
Most highly favored Mary, Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother you shall be, all generations praise continually,  
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”  
Most highly favored Mary, Gloria!

Gloria! Most highly favored lady, hear how the angels sing.  
You will bear the world a Savior, Lord of lords and King of kings!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.  
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s name.”

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favored Mary, Gloria!

Gloria! Most highly favored lady, hear how the angels sing.  
You will bear the world a Savior, Lord of lords and King of kings!

Glory to God in the highest!

## **“The Midnight Clear”**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
"Peace on the earth goodwill to all, from heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

It came upon the midnight clear; that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold!

Above these sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.  
And all the world can hear the song that now the angels sing.  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn still lay, to hear the angels sing.

### **"Run to Bethlehem"**

Shepherds watching over sheep by night witnessed an extraordinary sight.  
Angels from the realms of glory shared a most amazing story.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.

Morning stars proclaim the Holy birth. Angels sing the news of peace on earth.  
Peace and hope and joy he's bringing, hear the heavenly voices singing.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.

Run to Bethlehem and bring praises to the newborn King.  
Fall down on your knees and worship him.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, all of earth and heaven ring.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Run to Bethlehem and bring praises to the newborn King.  
Fall down on your knees and worship him.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, all of earth and heaven ring.  
Hurry, shepherd, run to Bethlehem.

## **“Angels Watching Over Me”**

Tiny baby rest your head. Angels watchin’ over me, my Lord.  
Safe inside your manger bed. Angels watchin’ over me.  
All night, all day, angels watchin’ over me, my Lord.  
All night, all day, angels watchin’ over me.

Sleep, my child and peace attend thee, all through the night.  
Guardian angels, God will send thee, all through the night.  
Shepherds in the fields abiding heard the angels’ joyful tidings.  
God, with us, is now residing all through the night.

Christ is born this holy night. Angels watchin’ over me, my Lord.  
Bringing love’s redeeming light. Angels watchin’ over me.  
All night, all day, angels watchin’ over me, my Lord.  
All night, all day, angels watchin’ over me.

Angels watchin’ over me.

## **“Sing with the Angels!”**

Gonna go with the shepherds down to Bethlehem,  
Gonna kneel at the manger there and worship him.  
Gonna shout “hallelujah” ‘cause a King is born,  
Gonna sing with the angels on that Christmas morn!

Gonna be there with Mary when the baby sighs,  
Gonna watch as the light from heaven fills the skies.  
Gonna shout “hallelujah” ‘cause a King is born,  
Gonna sing with the angels on that Christmas morn!

Gonna travel with the wisemen as they journey there,  
Gonna follow the star through the desert air.  
Gonna listen as Mary sings a lullaby.  
Gonna lift my praises up to the sky!

Gonna carry the good news, spread it far and near,  
Gonna tell everybody that the Savior's here.  
Gonna shout "hallelujah" 'cause a King is born,  
Gonna sing with the angels on that Christmas morn!

I'm gonna sing when the angels sing, and obey the spirit of the Lord.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Come and go with the shepherds down to Bethlehem,  
Come and kneel at the manger there and worship him,  
Come and shout "hallelujah" 'cause a King is born,  
Come and sing with the angels on that Christmas morn!

Come and sing! Come and worship.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, O come and worship, come and sing!

Come and go with the shepherds down to Bethlehem,  
Come and kneel at the manger there and worship him,  
Come and shout "hallelujah" 'cause a King is born,  
Come and sing with the angels on that Christmas morn!

The King is born!

## **"The Angel Songs"**

*(All)*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"



**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

*(Choir)*

The newborn King!

## **HOLY GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 11:2-15**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(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    “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”    #345**

*(We rise for stanza 5.)*

## SERMON

## “Saved By a Question”

Text: Matthew 11:2-15 – Pastor Danny Eggold

## RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

### VOLUNTARY

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

arr. Paul Manz

### 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** That our government may be a sign of the justice and dignity that belongs to all your children, Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

- P** That pastors, teachers, all church workers, and all the baptized may be a strong witness to the good news of your coming, Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

- P** That you strengthen with your healing love all who are depressed, lonely, ill, or whose hearts are fearful, Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** That you bless the ministries of charitable organizations who minister to the lives of those who are blind, deaf, lame, or speechless, Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** That during these busy days of preparation you calm our hearts with your gifts of patience, stillness, and hope, Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

**P** We give you thanks for all the saints whose lives revealed your light. Bring us with them to the everlasting joy and gladness of your reign. 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**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, 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.**

## **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    “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”    #341**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Charles Ore