



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

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

December 20, 2025 – 5:00pm
December 21, 2025 – 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 FOURTH WEEKEND IN ADVENT

December 20, 2025 – 5:00pm

December 21, 2025 – 10:30am

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING SONG

“Come, Jesus, Come”

(Praise Team)

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray
Come Jesus come let today be the day
Sometimes I feel like I’m gonna break
But I’m holding on to a hope that won’t fade

Come Jesus come
We’ve been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong
We need You right now
Come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn’t home
Come Jesus come
Come Jesus come

(All)

**There’ll be no war and there’ll be no chains
When Jesus comes let today be the day
He’ll come for the weak
And the strong just the same
And all will believe in the power of His name**

**Come Jesus come
We’ve been waiting so long**

For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong
We need You right now
Come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn't home
Come Jesus come
Come Jesus come

One day He'll come and we'll stand face to face
Come and lay it all down 'cause it might be today
The time is right now there's no need to wait
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace

Come Jesus come
We've been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong
We need You right now
Come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn't home
Come Jesus come
Come Jesus come

Come Jesus come

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

P We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word-made-flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 24

P The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

- C** for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
- P** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
- C** **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,**
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- P** He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- C** **Such is the generation of those who seek him,**
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- P** Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- C** **Who is this King of glory?**
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- P** Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- C** **Who is this King of glory?**
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!
- 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.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Lift Up Your Heads”

(Sing two times)

Lift up your heads to the coming King.
Bow before Him and adore Him, sing!

To His majesty let your praises be pure and holy,
Giving glory to the King of kings.

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 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Emmanuel”

(Sing two times)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Light of the World”

(Solo)

The world waits for a miracle.
The heart longs for a little bit of hope.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

A child prays for peace on earth.
And she’s calling out from a sea of hurt.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
And can you hear the angels singing
Glory to the light of the world, Glory, the light of the world is here.

(All)

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother.
A baby’s cry is the sound of love come down.
Come down, Emmanuel.
He is the song for the suffering.
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come.
He has come, Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world. Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world. Glory to the light of the world.

For all who wait, for all who hunger,
For all who’ve prayed, for all who wonder,
Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world. Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world. Behold your King, behold Messiah,

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

(Solo)

The world waits for a miracle.

The heart longs for a little bit of hope.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

SERMON

“A Cover-Up Story”

Text: Matthew 1:18-25 – Pastor Adam McDowell

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.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING SONG

“Noel”

(Praise Team)

Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

(All)

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

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 For the church throughout the world, that it faithfully announce that God is with us in word and at the table of the Lord, and in acts of kindness and love, Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For the nations of the world, that you grant wisdom and compassion to all who govern and lead, Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For those awaiting the birth of a child, and for all who watch and wait, that their hearts be filled with peace and their fears be turned to joy, Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For all who live without hope, for those who are hungry or homeless, depressed or lonely, sick or dying, that your merciful face shine on them, Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For our families and congregations, that as we celebrate Christmas you draw us to the mystery of your love and your gracious presence in our lives, Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P We remember with thanksgiving Mary and Joseph, and all who responded faithfully to your Word. May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts until we join all your saints in the brightness of your glory. 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

“What Feast of Love”

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous Word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the Son come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
O, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

“Jesus Messiah”

(Soloist)

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

(All)

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

(Soloist)

His body the bread; His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

(All)

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

(Praise Team)

All our hope is in You --- All our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God --- The light of the world.

(All)

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

(Praise Team)

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the dark midnight sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

(All)

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

(Praise Team)

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

(All)

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him

Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Light of the world crown in a manger

Born for the cross to suffer to save

High King of Heaven death is the poorer

We are the richer by the price that He paid

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him

Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Light of the World soon will be coming

With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own

Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory

And there He shall reign forevermore

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him

Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

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.

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.

SENDING SONG

“Even So Come”

(Praise Team)

All of creation all of the earth

Make straight a highway a path for the Lord

Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner wake up the saint

Let ev’ry nation shout of Your fame

Jesus is coming soon

(All)

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

(Praise Team)

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

(All)

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

(Praise Team)

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

(All)

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Even so come Lord Jesus come

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

“Even So Come”