



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

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

December 27, 2025 – 5:00pm  
December 28, 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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

December 27, 2025 – 5:00pm  
December 28, 2025 – 8:00am & 10:30am

## PRELUDE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

arr. Edwin Johnson

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#367

*(We rise for stanza 5)*

## INVOCATION

**P**

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

**C**

Amen.

*(The 5:00 & 8:00 services continue with the Confession & Absolution on page 5.)*

## ✠ ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM ✠

*(10:30)*

**P**

Our Lord commanded Baptism when He said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

God’s Word tells us that we are all conceived and born sinful and are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But Jesus took away our sin through His death on the cross. In Baptism He clothes us with the robe of His righteousness and gives us a new life.

Jason and Brooke: In obedience to Christ's command and trusting in His promise, you have brought Lillian and Charlotte to be baptized. As they grow in years, will you place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, bring them to the services of worship in God's house, and provide for their further instruction in the Christian faith, that abiding in their baptismal grace and in communion with the Church, they may grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? If so, then answer by saying, "Yes."

**R** Yes.

**P** Lillian Mae Nicodemus, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

**P** Charlotte Grace Nicodemus, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

**P** Let us join in the prayer our Lord has taught us:

**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.**

## **RITE OF BAPTISM**

**P** Let us all, together with the sponsors and parents, faithfully speak in testimony of the forgiveness of sins and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.

**P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**C** **I do renounce them.**

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?  
**C** Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?  
**C** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?  
**C** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

### **The Baptism of Lillian Mae Nicodemus**

Lillian is the daughter of Jason and Brooke (Smith) Nicodemus.  
Her sponsor is Danielle Smith.

**P** Lillian Mae Nicodemus, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### **The Baptism of Charlotte Grace Nicodemus**

Charlotte is the daughter of Jason and Brooke (Smith) Nicodemus.  
Her sponsor is Kassidee Nicodemus.

**P** Charlotte Grace Nicodemus, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins; strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**C** Amen.

## PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

**P** Lillian and Charlotte: receive these burning lights to show that you have received Christ who is the light of the world. Live always by the Light of Christ, for Jesus said, “Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will always have the light of life.”

## SPONSOR’S PLEDGE

**P** Danielle and Kassidee: Having witnessed Lillian’s and Charlotte’s baptisms, will you remember them in your prayers, remind them that they are baptized children of God, and, as much as you are able, give your counsel and aid, especially if they should lose their parents that they be brought up in the true knowledge and worship of God? If so, then answer by saying, “Yes.”

**R** Yes.

## CONGREGATION’S PLEDGE

**P** Fellow Members of God’s Kingdom: Through Baptism, God has made Lillian and Charlotte His own precious children. Will you welcome them into the Lord’s family? Will you receive them as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and help them grow in the faith of their baptisms, so they may join us in proclaiming the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light? If so, then answer by saying, “Yes.”

**C** Yes.

- P** May God enable us all to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- C** Amen.

## BLESSING

- P** Lillian Mae Nicodemus and Charlotte Grace Nicodemus, Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by your Baptisms has made you His dear children. May He strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.
- C** Amen.

*(The 5:00 & 8:00 services continue here.)*

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** We have celebrated the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in this joyous time of year we fall far short of the life to which our Savior calls us. We are sinners who cannot save ourselves. We have been hard-hearted, unkind, proud, arrogant, impatient, complaining, grudge-holding, and more. We confess all of our sin to You, Lord, both that of which we are aware and that which is not known to us. We plead for Your mercy and forgiveness, as You have promised.
- P** Salvation unto us has come! Jesus was born into the world to fulfill the Father's will that the world not be condemned by Him, but saved. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## KYRIE

*(Tune: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns")*

Have mercy on your people, Lord.  
Have mercy, Christ, our King.  
Renew us by your mercy, Lord;  
Accept the prayers we bring.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*(Tune: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")*

"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.  
Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.  
You we praise and glorify, worship you, O Lord most high.  
Gracious Father, heav'nly King, to Your name alone we sing:  
Praise the glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!

Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, sole-begotten, holy One,  
Born on earth from realms on high, born true man for us to die,  
Lamb of God, you take away this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.  
With the Spirit, you alone are most high, O God the Son,  
And the Father, God above. Praise we now Your glorious love.

## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

**P** Let us pray together:  
**C** Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” <sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. <sup>17</sup>There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

Psalm 54

**P** O God, save me, by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.

**C** O God, hear my prayer;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.

**P** For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;  
they do not set God before themselves.

**C** Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

**P** He will return the evil to my enemies;  
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

**C** With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

**P** For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

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



## EPISTLE READING

## Revelation 14:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup>and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup>and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL READING

## Matthew 2:13-18

### ALLELUIA VERSE

*(Tune: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright")*

Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
To God the Father gladly sing,  
The God of our creation.  
Alleluia! Let praise be done  
to Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
By whom is our salvation.  
Alleluia! By the Spirit we inherit life forever.  
Praise the Lord, who fails us never!

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

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

<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death

of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” <sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

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

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band” #969

*(This hymn will be sung to the tune of “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”).*

Sweet flow’rets of the martyr band,  
Plucked by the tyrant’s ruthless hand  
Upon the threshold of the morn,  
Like rosebuds by a tempest torn;

First victims for the incarnate Lord,  
A tender flock to feel the sword;  
Beside the altar’s ruddy ray,  
With palm and crown, you seemed to play.

Ah, what availed King Herod’s wrath?  
He could not stop the Savior’s path.  
Alone, while others murdered lay,  
In safety Christ is borne away.

*(We rise)*

O Lord, the virgin-born, we sing  
Eternal praise to You, our King,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

## SERMON

## “Bethlehem”

Text: Matthew 3:13-18 – Pastor Danny Eggold

## CREEDAL HYMN (5:00 ~ 8:00)

(Tune: “Away in a Manger”)

In God we believe: the Creator whose pow’r  
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.  
He graciously grants us our years and our days  
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.  
True God and true man once the cross He endured  
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.  
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God’s Spirit at work in our lives we confess;  
With power and truth the church now He does bless.  
As saints, God’s forgiven, one day we shall then  
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

## RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

## VOLUNTARY

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. Charles Callahan

## OFFERTORY HYMN

(Tune: “Hark the Glad Sound”)

Create in me a pure heart Lord  
A spirit new within  
O cast me not away from You,  
But cleanse me from my sin.

Restore to me salvation's joy  
Your Holy Spirit breathe

Within my heart to grant me grace  
Uphold me, Spirit free.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Almighty God, as the Holy Innocents suffered in the wake of Herod's rage, so do martyrs of all ages continue to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Strengthen Your children who face trials and danger because of their faith in Christ. Preserve them from evil, and comfort the families of all who die in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Blessed Lord, You have given us hope and established us in the peace of Christ, our Savior. Give Your Church boldness to speak the message of the cross and empty tomb without fear. Raise up faithful pastors to serve us in Your name, and call many to service in the Church here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Father in heaven, You have honored and consecrated the home by the birth and life of Your beloved Son. Instill in Your people a godly love and reverence for their families, and enrich our lives together by Your Word and promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy One of Israel, have mercy on our nation. Give us good and faithful rulers who will govern after Your good pleasure. Give us comfort and a right understanding of Your rule in this world, that we would not be deceived to think earthly powers will last forever, but have confidence in You alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, hear us for the sake of all who cry to You in their need. Heal the sick, relieve the suffering, comfort the mourning and guide the dying to peace in Christ. Restore them with Your abundant grace, and according to Your will deliver them from all their troubles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord, grant that we may remain steadfast and immovable in faith, and that we may endure to the day of Christ's coming. Reunite us with those who have gone before us and now rest from their labors, and grant that we may live in Your eternal presence and sing Your praise without end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(5:00 ☞ 8:00)*

- 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**

- 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.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **“Of the Father's Love Begotten”**

**#384**

*(If seated – we rise for stanza 5.)*

## **POSTLUDE**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

arr. David Schack