



**St. Peter Lutheran Church
422 North Pierce Street
Delphos, OH 45833**

**Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025 -10:00 AM**

INTRODUCTION

Since weather caused us to cancel the worship service last week, we are combining the first two Sundays in Advent. Today we will focus on the hope that God can give us when things are hard and then the peace that this hope can bring. We light the candles of hope and peace.

PRELUDE

Emily Martin, organist

*Congregational responses are in **bold print**. The symbol + before a section signifies that the assembly is to be standing.*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this house worn down by the world. **Breathe new life into our hearts, O God.**

Receive the Holy Spirit, here in this place. **We receive it with joy and thanksgiving!**

+GATHERING SONG

#641

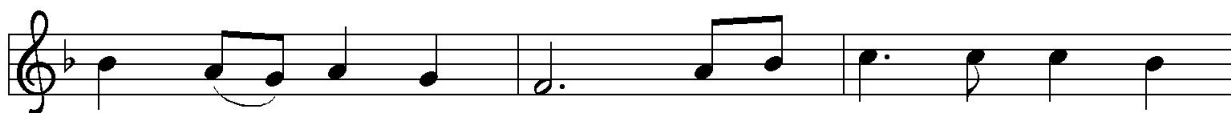
"All Are Welcome"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:

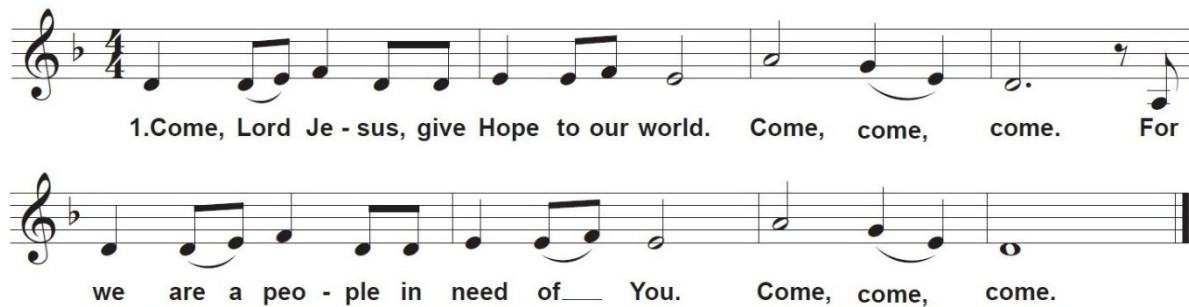


all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

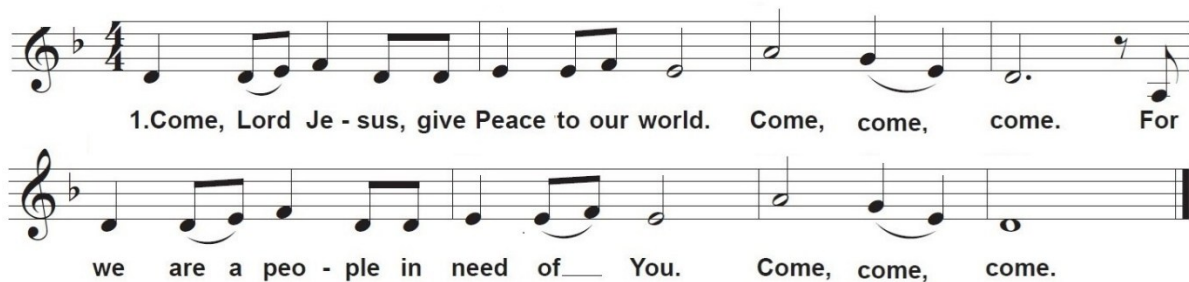
ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE LIGHTING by Corey and Ashley Kloeppel & family

Come Lord Jesus

Carol Pretorius



ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE LIGHTING by Jenny, Alayna, and Dylan



+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God who was and is and is to come, **despite our best intentions, even our deepest desires, we find ourselves time and again turning away from you to follow after other gods—possessions, people, comforts—in an effort to fill the hole that only you can. In so doing we have harmed ourselves, others, and your holy creation by what we have said and done, and by the things we have neglected to do. Open our eyes to see that you alone are the source of our wholeness. Forgive us our wrongs and inspire us to the work of making them right, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.**

Beloved of God, like the prodigal son, you are always received with great joy, and your sins are forgiven you. Go forth in newness of life. **Amen.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **All of creation is your beloved child. Hear the cries of all who are in pain, in grief, in fear. Give heed to the lost, the despairing, and the dying. Draw all into your loving embrace and breathe into all things your life-giving Spirit, that we might be renewed to be bearers of your light and love to one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me,

Lord: Mortal, can these bones live?

Ezekiel: I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me,

Lord: Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel: So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me,

Lord: Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

Ezekiel: I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me,

Lord: Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am

the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,

Ezekiel: Says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 25:1-5

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

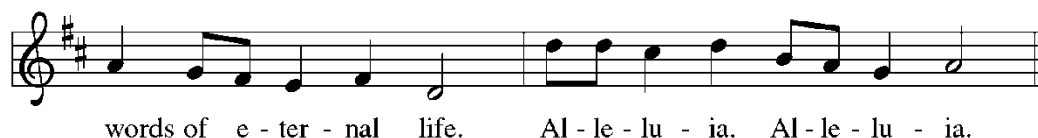
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+GOSPEL: John 11:17-27

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Carol Pretorius

+HYMN OF THE DAY

#250

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

+APOSTLES' CREED

Let us declare what we believe in the words of The Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Come Lord Jesus. **Hear our prayer...**) **Amen. So be it. So be it for me. So be it for us all.**

+PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

ELW #188

"Create in Me"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and suitable for children's voices. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Holy God, we bring to you our humble gifts, out of what you have first given us. As you gave new life to a pile of dried up bones, give life to these, our offerings, that they might become an overflowing blessing to renew a world in need. Amen.**

+DIALOGUE

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

+LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

+INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus, who breathes new life into all things, invites you to this holy table, where he offers his own body and blood to give you life—and that abundantly! Come to the meal where our friend and sibling, Jesus Christ, is fully present, and be made new. **Amen.**

(The assembly is seated.)

COMMUNION *(All who are baptized and believe that Jesus is Lord may share Holy Communion with us. Children who have not yet received instruction may come*

forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available as an alternative for those who cannot drink wine—just ask the server for it.)

After receiving the bread and the cup each person may respond: **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

#1 -- "Lamb of God"

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The fourth line ends with a double bar line.

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

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **As we have been fed and nourished in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, allow us to place our hope and trust in you for each of our lives that we might truly trust and believe that you have plans for our welfare and not for harm in order to give us a future with hope. Thank you for the gift of hope. Amen**

+BLESSING

May you go forth knowing that the King of Kings dwells richly in you. **May we go forth in peace. Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

#535

"Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises"

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais-es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church! We're glad that God has brought you here today. We believe that Jesus offers his love, peace, and forgiveness to all people – and that includes you. We pray that the Holy Spirit will touch your heart today as you worship. *The mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church is to grow our faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others.*

Please pray for the following family and friends:

Jimmy, Roger, Mark, Stella, Joe, Julie, Linda, Henry, Tyle, Bianca, Rose, Hailey

The radio ministry is given to the glory of God by the members of St. Peter Lutheran Church

Servants of the Lord for Sunday, December 7

Counters – Lois Ewing | Barb Krueckeberg
Altar Guild – Angie Miller | Sarah Miller | Donna Berger
Acolyte – Roy Trentman
Communion – Kathy Stemen
Usher – Eric Fritz
Greeters – Ally Hasting | Jim Hasting

Servants of the Lord for Sunday, December 14

Counters – Ryan Trentman | Yvonne Koenig
Altar Guild – Angie Miller | Sarah Miller | Donna Berger
Acolyte – Olivia Rode
Communion – Dave Stemen
Usher – Aaron Trentman
Greeters – Ally Hasting | Jim Hasting

Altar Guild is starting to prepare for Christmas and will be beautifying the altar with Christmas poinsettias. They will be red and cost \$7.50 each. Envelopes are on the tables in back of the church or you can contact Angie Miller 419-234-2115 to place your order by December 7. Please help us celebrate and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Annual Congregational meeting on December 14th to vote on the 2026 Church Budget and to vote on new council members.

Catechism is after church on Sunday, December 14th. This month the students and their parent will meet at 1:00 to study the Lord's Prayer. Then around 2:00 the group is asked to go caroling with the community to several homes and to Vancrest and The Meadows. This will serve as a service project.

WELCA will be doing their annual Christmas Card Tree as in years past! You are invited to send a card and donation as the card will be placed on the tree to say Merry Christmas to all. This year all of the donations will be given to a local charity in need.

IROR Meeting after church on Sunday, December 21st

Sunday School Children's Choir will be singing during the December 14th worship service.

The **December Newsletter** is available at the back of the church.

The **2026 Offering Envelopes** are now ready to be picked up at the back of the church.

Thank you for supporting St. Peter Lutheran Church

Join us at St. Peter Lutheran Church for the

Candlelight
Christmas Eve
- SERVICE -

at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 24th.