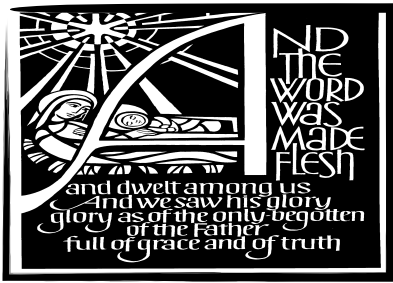




**Take the child
and his mother,
and flee**

MATTHEW 2:13



Gathered By the Cross at St. Peter
1st Sunday after the Nativity of Our Lord
Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 28, 2025

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM WORSHIP at splcm.org/worship
Video streamed in Sunday School Wing



AS WE ARE GATHERED BY THE CROSS

Many retail merchants have a ninety day gift return policy, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus, in whom we have an identity that is unique: We are God’s children, calling out to Him, “Abba! Father!” We hear in the Old Testament reading that as He did with our forebears, so even now He remembers His covenant. Even when danger threatens, as it did for the holy family, He is with us to protect and guide us. In fact, we are not only God’s children; with Jesus, His only-begotten Son, we are also heirs of the promise, which He kept for us. That is merry news indeed!

[P]—PASTOR; [C]—CONGREGATION; [A]—CANTOR/CHOIR; [L]—LECTOR/LEADER

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

GATHERING

PRELUDE (*ORGAN*)

Stand

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18-20]

- [P]** We are gathered in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
[C] Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- [P]** Amidst the darkness of this world,
let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God’s forgiveness.

Kneel or Sit

- [P]** Mary accepted Your call to be the mother of Jesus.
[C] Forgive our lack of faith and trust in Your will.
[P] Your Son was born in the poverty of a manger.
[C] Forgive our neglect of the poor.
[P] The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.
[C] Forgive our selfishness and complacency.



- P** The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.
C **Forgive our reluctance to seek You with all our hearts.**
P The angel said, “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

Stand and turn toward the processional cross

GATHERING HYMN

See amid the Winter’s Snow – LSB 373

1 See amid the winter’s snow,
 Born for us on earth below,
 See, the gentle Lamb appears,
 Promised from eternal years. *R/*

2 Lo, within a stable lies
 He who built the starry skies,
 He who, throned in height sublime,
 Sits amid the cherubim. *R/*

REFRAIN:

Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
 Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem:
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
 What a tender love was Thine,
 Thus to come from highest bliss
 Down to such a world as this! *R/*

4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
 By Thy face so meek and mild,
 Teach us to resemble Thee
 In Thy sweet humility. *R/*

Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.: Text: Public domain

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

from LSB 368 verses 1 and 3

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Savior ✠ Jesus Christ,
Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

C And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit

READINGS AND RESPONSES

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 63:7–14

The LORD's Mercy Remembered

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,

and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,

¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

L This is the Word of the Lord:

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Oh, Sleep Now, Holy Baby

Spanish Verse: SOLO; Verses 1-2 & REFRAIN: CONGREGATION

- A** *Duérmete, Niño lindo, en los brazos del amor
mientras que derme y descansa la pena de mi dolor.
A la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la mé,
a la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la ru, a la mé.*



- C** 1 Oh, sleep now, ho - ly ba-by, with your head a - gainst my breast;
mean-while the pangs of my sor - row are soothed and put to rest.



REFRAIN:

- C** A la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la mé,
a la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la ru, a la mé.



- C** 2 You need not fear King Herod, he will bring no harm to you;
so rest in the arms of your mother who sings you a la ru. *REFRAIN*

Text: Hispanic Folk song; tr. John Donald Robb, 1892-1989

Music: A LA RU, Hispanic folk tune; adapt. John Donald Robb, 1892-1989

Tr. and adapt. © 1954 University of New Mexico Foundation, admin. J. D. Robb Musical Trust

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Source: WOV 639

SECOND LESSON – Galatians 4:4–7

Sons and Heirs

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord:
C Thanks be to God.

**C Let our gladness have no end, Alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!**

**Into flesh is made the Word, Alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 2nd chapter:

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Flight to Egypt

¹³When [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.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and 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.”

Herod Kills the Children

¹⁶Then 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. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“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.”

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord:

C Praise to You, O Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL VERSE *(repeat verse)*

Sit
SERMON

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born – LSB 624

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.</p> <p>2 This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.</p> <p>3 The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.</p> | <p>4 But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.</p> <p>5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.</p> <p>6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.</p> |
|---|--|
- 7** With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001696

NICENE CREED

- P** God has made us His people through Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- C** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 He suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

*The ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian faith.

Sit

LITANY OF THE INCARNATION

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each petition is said:

- P** Merciful Lord,
C receive our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers, all say: Amen.



GREETING OF PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, “Peace be with you,”
 as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit
 in the bond of peace and in preparation for reception of the Holy Supper.*

LORD’S SUPPER

OFFERINGS FOR GOD’S MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4)

(Please STAND as the elder and usher bring the gifts forward to the altar.)



- C** What can I give Him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man I would do my part;
 Yet what I can, I give Him – Give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE (spoken responses)

- P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. *[Psalm 136]*
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is indeed right and salutary... and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9
Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!
Hail, *Hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, *Hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!

**Hosanna is a Hebrew word meaning "save us now."*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are You for the birth of creation...
Blessed are You for Your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (see LSB 162)

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P With this bread and cup... We look with hope for His coming.
C Come, Lord Jesus.
P Holy God, we long for Your Spirit...
Fill us with Your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C Come, Holy Spirit.
P All praise and glory are Yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Luke 7:7

- P** The Word made flesh has come down from heaven
and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing for the Agnus Dei.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29

Oh, Come, Little Children

- C** Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,
To Bethlehem, haste, to the manger so small.
God's Son, Christ, the Lamb, has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Oh, lift up your hands now, and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.





Distribution Notes

The Lord's Supper is joyfully received here today. At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ gives us a tremendous gift. His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and embodies our unity with one another. Accordingly, in 1 Corinthians 11, St. Paul cautions Christians to receive the Supper together only when they are united in a common faith and love. If you are new to our congregation, please see the pastor before communing.

*Please fill in around the altar accordingly: **Fellowship Hall Side:** fill in from the back to the front; **Sunday School Side:** fill in from the front to the back.*

- * Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms over your chest.
- * Those communing will receive the host from the pastor and may receive the consecrated wine by Common Cup OR Individual Cup.
 - Common Cup: Offered by the elder, by guiding the base of the cup with your hand.
 - Individual Cup: Available as you process down the center aisle from the individual cup dispenser. Twist and pull upward to receive an empty cup. An elder will fill your cup at the altar. Place the used individual cup in the collection basket.

After receiving the elements you may return to your pews. Please inform an usher if you want the elements to be brought to you.

CAROLS DURING DISTRIBUTION

O Little Town of Bethlehem – LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93; Text: Public domain

Let All Together Praise Our God – LSB 389

1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

WOMEN

3 *Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.*

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

MEN

5 *He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.*

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001;
(st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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Stand

DISMISSAL AND COLLECT

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in His grace.

☑ Amen.

☐ Let us pray in thanksgiving. We give You thanks, O God,
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, You give us food for our journey.

☑ As You led the magi by a star, as You brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives
proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

SENDING CAROL

Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953; Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* 53, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission OneLicense.net
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SENDING

- P** Go in peace, filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.
- G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (*ORGAN*)

✠ **Glory to God Alone** ✠

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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✠ **DAILY LECTIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR** ✠

Daily Lectionary and Psalms for Daily Prayer

for the week of Sunday, December 28 - Saturday, January 3

are available in your Lutheran Service Book (LSB), on pages: 299-304

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, JANUARY 4

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104 (antiphon: v. 99); Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28TH – HOLY INNOCENTS (RED)

Jeremiah 31:15–17; Revelation 14:1–5; Revelation 14:1–5; Matthew 2:13–18

JANUARY 1ST: CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

Psalm 8; Galatians 3:23–29; Luke 2:21

JANUARY 6TH: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1–11-15 (antiphon: v. 18); Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY:

Preacher:	The Rev. Dr. Adam Clark, Senior Pastor	Elder:	Jeff Rockwell
		Lector:	Cindy Matthews
Celebrant:	The Rev. Bryan G. Borger, Associate Pastor	Usher:	Matthew Rockwell
		Altar Guild:	Megan Rockwell
Music Director and Organist:	Emily Ruch	Sound Board:	TBD
Soloist:	Joel Krueger	Video Streaming:	TBD
		Greeter:	Darryl Henk and Ronnie Zarate

Please update the Sunday Servant sign-up sheet on the slat wall.

Christmas Worship Schedule

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT [SPLCM.ORG/WORSHIP](https://splcm.org/worship)

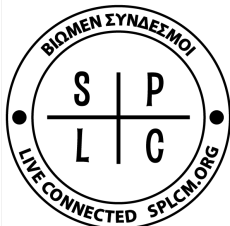


Sunday, January 4th, Worship at 10:15am
2nd Sunday after Christmas (with Epiphany Reading)
NOTE: NO EDUCATION HOUR

(Education Hour resumes Sunday, Jan. 11, 9:00-9:50am)

St. Peter Lutheran Church

437 East Dragoon Trail; Mishawaka, IN 46544; 574-255-5585



The Rev. Dr. Adam Clark, Senior Pastor – Cell 574-323-0654

The Rev. Bryan G. Borger, Associate Pastor – Cell 574-386-6401

Mrs. Emily Ruch, Director of Music Ministries

Renee Peggs, Ministry Coordinator (Church Office)

<u>Sunday Schedule:</u>	Education Hour (All Ages)	9:00-9:50am
	Sunday Worship	10:15am