

# Third Sunday of Advent



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 16, 2018

Holy Communion

**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.*

123 South Seventh Street

St. Clair, Michigan

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Rev. Ken Staib, Pastor  
586-648-6955 home  
stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net

December 16, 2018  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Marilyn Tackaberry, organist

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING SONG** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

**ELW 255**

**GREETING**

**KYRIE**

**ELW P. 120**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 3**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *A Candle Is Burning***

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is  
exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p.124**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

ELW 246

## CREED

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, Sunday School youth, and all who make a joyful noise, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods and droughts. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn, especially those on our prayer list, and those we name before you now in our hearts. Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for children who are neglected or abused; for teenagers who face temptations; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for all the faithful women and men who have guided us on the way and are now at rest. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**DIALOGUE**

**ELW p.129**

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW p. 130**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG**

**ELW p. 135**

**COMMUNION**

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION**

**ELW p. 135**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**ELW 242**

**DISMISSAL**

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**SERVING TODAY:** Greeter: Norene Stoecker; Ushers: Scott Bell & Jon Jones; Acolyte: Jack Wiegand; Scripture Reader: Nancy Green; Communion Assistant: Chris Ritter; Projectionist: Del Vogel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome those who are visiting with us. Please take time to sign the registration book or the guest register in the lobby and introduce yourself to Pastor Ken. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and our congregation warm and receptive. We are glad that you are here.

DVD copies of the 9:30 a.m. worship service can be produced for those who are shut-in or others who would like a copy. Let us know in advance if there is a service that you would like recorded.

Sunday is the deadline for orders for Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the sanctuary for the holidays. Please get your order in today.

The youth group Christmas party will take place on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:30 PM. This is for anyone in grade 6-12. Please bring a \$5 white elephant gift. If you have any questions see Pastor Ken or Pastor Joyce.

On Sunday, anyone in grades 6-12 is invited to Tim Horton's after worship. Please bring money to buy your own drink and lunch if you would like.

St. Peter's will host the St. Clair area Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the Blue Christmas service is to acknowledge that the holidays can accent our losses especially when loved ones are missing around holiday gatherings. The other congregations sponsoring this event are, First United Methodist, Holy Family Episcopal and First Congregational United Church of Christ. The community is invited to this special ecumenical worship service.

Mobile giving is now live! To download the app search for **Tithe.ly** in the App Store or Google Play. Once the app is downloaded you can search for "St. Peters Lutheran". There are different destination options. The default is the General Fund, but there are options for seasonal giving envelopes, as well as memorials. Please make use of the MEMO option if you have any notes. The processing fees are higher for credit/debit card transactions. Consider using your banking info for lower fees. There is an option to "Cover Card Processing Fees". This simply means that you will pay the extra fees instead of it coming out of your offering amount.

Middle school youth are invited to Junior High Charge, March 22-24, 2019, at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Registration is open. Students 6-8 grade are invited to attend. If you are interested in going please see Pastor Joyce for more information

Your 2019 offering envelopes are available in your mailbox today.

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Diane Hodgins & Nancy Black

**BIRTHDAYS:** 12/21 Dorothy Schueneman 90 years

**ATTENDANCE:** Saturday 23  
Sunday 115

**IN NEED OF PRAYER** Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Louis Eisen, Loretta Lukasak, Elizabeth MacDonald, Sharon Ann Wheeler, Adeline Harsch, Pat Greenwood, Don Schroeder, Patricia Jones, Marc Dease, Stacey Yax, Ruth Morris, Bernie Nummer, Carole Stiefvater, Ed Myers, Jeremy Bryan, James Mitchell, Marlene Hand, Kenneth Eisen, Connie Felstow, Linda Leist. (Please call or email the office at [stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net) to update information.)

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Mallard's Landing 11 am	Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Youth Christmas Party 6:30 pm	Choir 7 pm	Pastor's day off	Worship, Communion 5 pm	Worship, 9:30 am

**Blue Christmas Service** at St. Peter's, Sunday, December 16, 7 pm

**Advent 4 Service**, Sunday, December 23, 9:30 am

**The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion**

Monday, December 24, 3 pm and 5:30 pm Candlelight Service

There is no Saturday service on December 29.

**Service of Lessons and Carols**, Sunday, December 30, 9:30 am

