

Epiphany of Our Lord

St. Peter Lutheran Church

January 4, 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Eight



Weekly Outreach Opportunity

Mosaic Ministries of South Toledo. Wondering how you can get involved? Come visit our ministry any Sunday or other scheduled time to get a flavor for the people and culture we serve. They are located at 860 Orchard St., Toledo, Ohio, 43609.

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church!

If you are a guest with us this morning, we welcome you to fill out a connection card, located in the pew rack. You are welcome to share as much information with us as you are comfortable sharing. Please place the cards in the baskets at the head of the aisle during the Communion distribution.

For Worship, everything you need is included in this bulletin except for the hymns, which are found in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

PRELUDE: *Light of the World* by Lauren Daigle; *Noel* by Tommee Profitt & Stanaj.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Reconciling God,

We yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and
Refrain

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

We sing the refrain, then read the Psalm responsively, singing the refrain where indicated with an "R".

We sing the second stanza, marked "Epiphany / General."

Psalm 72

Hal H. Hopson

(1-14)

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain



*Advent: Come, Lord, come soon, so that wars may cease.
Epiphany/General: We, too, bow down. In one voice we raise,*



*Come, Lord, come soon; bring joy and peace.
ever to sing un - end - ing praise.*

Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.
Music: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.** R

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance
of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.** R

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.** R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *The Magi*

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Bulletin Insert

NICENE CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING: O Little Town of Bethlehem by Elevation Worship

The offering is collected. You can share your tithes and offerings by:

- Cash or check using envelopes in the pews
- Sending a check via your bank's bill pay feature
- Using this QR code to give via debit or credit card or to set up automated giving through Vanco.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of Glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

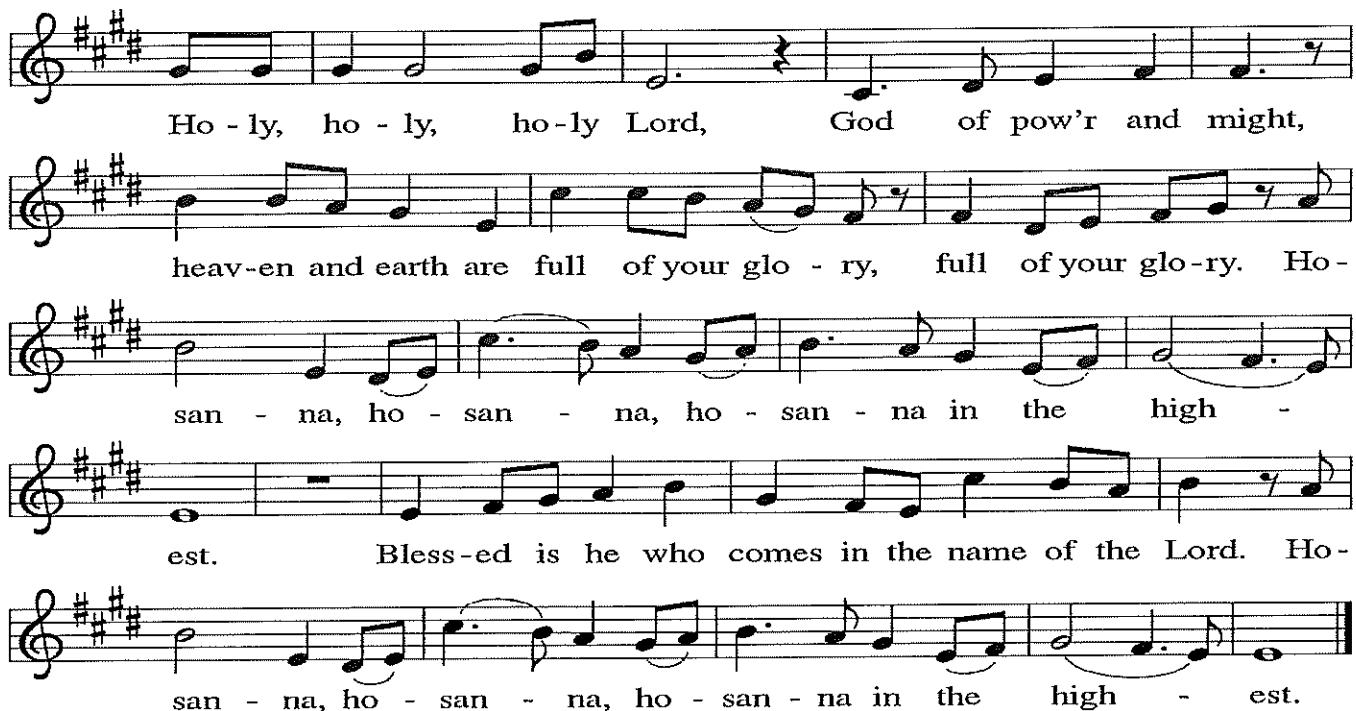
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - - est.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

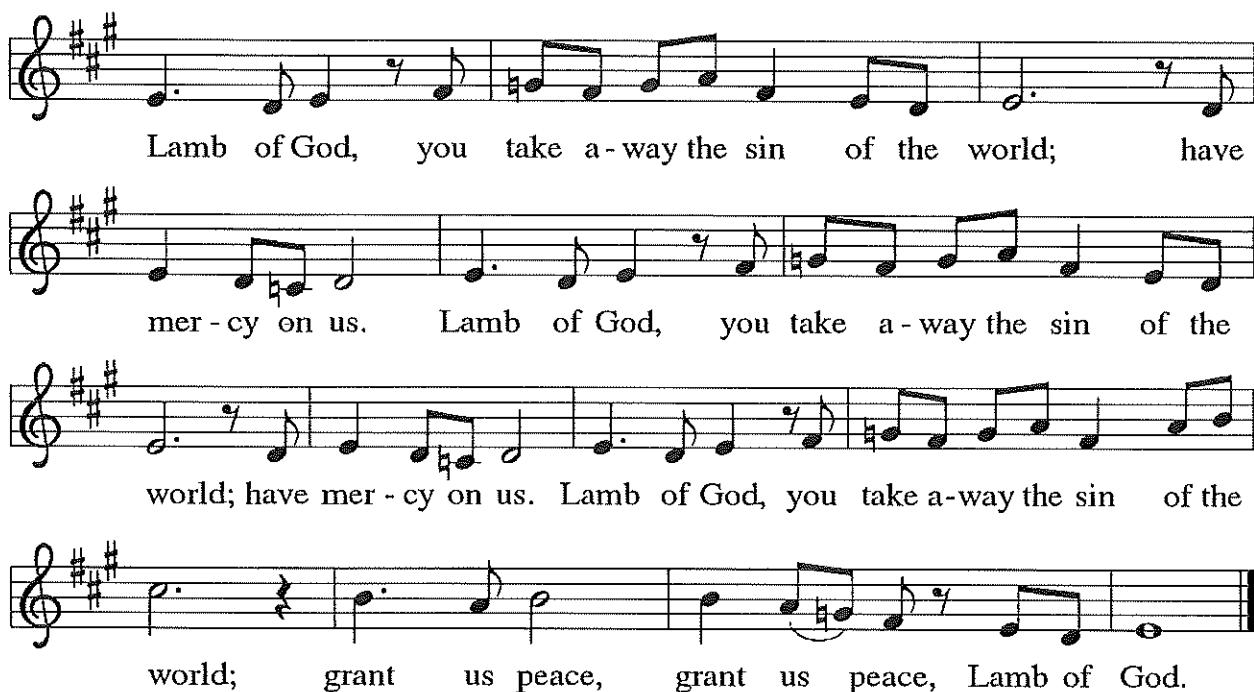
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Welcome to the Table of the Lord! We commune in a continuous fashion forming two lines down the center aisle. Receive the host from the pastor and then take an individual glass which will be filled from the pouring chalice. You are welcome to fill out a connection card (from the pew racks) and place it in the container at the head of the aisle.

COMMUNION SONGS: *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Lydi Lynn; *Lowest of Lows* by Josiah Queen

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light*

815

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* by Travis Cottrell.

ALTER FLOWERS: Given to the Glory of our New Born King.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician.....	John Beamer
Video Tech.....	Mark Cuthbertson
Greeter.....	Wendy Millinger
Usher.....	Katie Larson
Reader.....	Karen Schanke
Children's Message.....	
Communion.....	Mary Dehring
Fellowship.....	Overmyer Family

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Today	Worship	8:45 AM
	Sunday School	10:00 AM
	Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Tues	Sewing Quilts	9:00 AM
Wed.	Bible Study	12:00 PM
	A.A.	8:00 PM

INVITATION: to a delicious and fun-filled church potluck next Sunday, January 11 at 11:00AM. Following the meal, there will be games of cards and board games for both children and adults. Please sign up on the sheet in Narthex. We can't wait to see you there and share good food and fellowship together!

ATTENDANCE: 12/28 Worship: 52, SS 12,
Christmas Eve 4-PM-175; 9-PM—21

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: No reports available.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, Fellowship Hostess/Hosts and Flower Sponsors are needed. There are several slots empty on the sign-up sheets. Please consider and sign up to help with our worship service.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Lyrics to today's music is located on the table by the stairs.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION is next Sunday, January 11, 2026. The money from the pop cans is put in the Sunday School Fund.

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 11

Greeter: Pam King
Usher:
Reader: Mary Dehring
Communion: Pam King,
 Beth Lepper
Fellowship: Jennifer & Brian Cutlip
Flowers: Dusty & Mary Reinhart

January 18

Greeter:
Usher:
Reader:
Communion: Mary Dehring,
 Kim Reif
Fellowship: Wes & Judy Gahler
Flowers: Wes & Judy Gahler

January 25

Greeter: Pam King
Usher:
Reader: Beth Lepper
Communion: Pam King, Beth Lepper
Fellowship:
Flowers:

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Worship 8:45 am

Sunday School 10:00 am (Sept-May)

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st peter blackberry@gmail.com

Pastor Matt Musteric

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