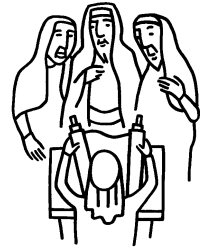


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Let It Be (as the Angel has Said)

Lessons and Carols for Mary, the Mother of God
1st Sunday of Christmas, December 29, 2024 – 9:30 am.
Feast of the Faithful



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(P) Pastor; (A) Worship Assistant; (\*) Please stand as you're able;  
Congregation responses in **BOLD**

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The CHURCH'S GATHERING

WELCOME *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*
+ What are you praising God for today? +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

CALL to WORSHIP

A: At the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

***GATHERING HYMN: # 254 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

*** GREETING and HYMN of PRAISE**

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God
sent from heaven above, is with you all. **And also with you.**
Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and singing:

PRAYER of the DAY

Holy God, **hear our prayer**. *A brief silence*. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Praise Song: Mary's Boy Child (*Please see the screen*)

GOD'S WORD

Welcoming the Word

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen this glory, full of grace and truth.**

All the following readings are from the Common English Bible.

A Reading from Luke, chapter 1 *Annunciation by Gabriel*

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his realm."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Hymn: "No Wind at the Window"



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
 3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
 4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
 Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
 sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
 no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
 The time for re - deem - ing, the world has be - gun,
 both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign,
 Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
 and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
 both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.
 re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

A Reading from Luke, chapter 1 *Mary visits Elizabeth*

Some time after the angel had appeared to her, Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and God has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her." And Mary said:

Hymn: # 723 "Canticle of the Turning"

A Reading from Luke, chapter 2 *Nativity in Bethlehem*

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

When the shepherds came and saw the child in the manger, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

When eight days had passed, Jesus' parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived.

Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

A Reading from Luke, chapter 2 *Jesus' Presentation*

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

 "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,
 because my eyes have seen your salvation.

 You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

 It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and a glory for your people Israel.”

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

Hymn: # 417 “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

A Reading from Luke, chapter 2 *Jesus in the temple*

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t know it. Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. When they didn’t find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We’ve been looking for you!”

Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” But they didn’t understand what he said to them.

Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

Hymn: # 640 “Our Father, by Whose Name”

A Reading from John, chapter 19 *Mary at the cross*

Jesus’ mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross of Jesus. When Jesus saw his mother and

the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Hymn: "What Child Is This"

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

A Reading from the book of Acts, chapter 1 Mary with the believers

When they entered the city after Jesus had ascended, Jesus' followers went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son—all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Hymn: "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand
 amid the heav'nly throng;
 and sing with hosts from ev'ry land
 the new celestial song,
 the new celestial song.

- 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;
 your love has made us free
 to stand among the saints and sing
 the glory that we see,
 the glory that we see.

MESSAGE: Let It Be *(silence for reflection follows)*

APOSTLES CREED

A: With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal faith.

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 the PEOPLE

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *A brief silence.*

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed.
P: We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Kathy, Lori, Ruth, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

JESUS' SUPPER

***PEACE**

At the Table we are reconciled to God through Jesus,
so that we are made right with one another,
and all humanity, sharing in God's *shalom*.

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

We share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.

RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN "What Child Is This"

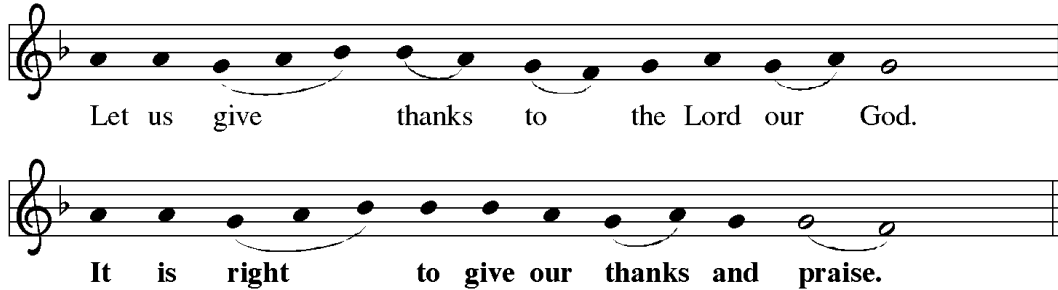
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer: "The Lord be with you. And also with you." The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with stems, and are accompanied by lyrics printed below the staff.



***PREFACE for CHRISTMAS** (*sung by pastor*)

***SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy,
God of pow'r and God of might:
Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

***THANKSGIVING at the TABLE for Christmas**

P: Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
**at the birth of time your Word brought light
into the world.**

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
**to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.**

In the night in which he was handed over, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
Do this and remember me.

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

Remembering his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection, **we await Christ's coming again
when all things will be restored in him.
Come, holy Jesus.**

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
**we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that God's rule will appear, 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 the FEAST**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

Sharing Communion *Please take time for meditation & prayer.*

SONG during SUPPER: # 263 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

SPIRIT'S SENDING

PRAYER for MISSION

A: Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Merciful God, **we thank you
for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and
share the good news of great joy. Amen**

Nunc Dimittis #313 "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"

MISSION UPDATE: *opportunities for learning & service*

***BLESSING**

P: *The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, shine light on your path,
and increase your joy, to- | day and always.*



***SENDING HYMN: # 281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

***SENDING into MISSION**

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

We will Learn God's Truth.

We will Share Spirit's Healing.

We will Follow Jesus' Way.

P: We go with Christ's peace
to love and serve all!

Amen – YES, we will!

POSTLUDE: Selection from "The Magnificat" –D. Buxtehude

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At the time of this writing, please keep the following in your prayers: ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, those hospitalized or at home recuperating, and our at-home worshippers.

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of my mother,  
Anna Gahs' December 31<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given by her son, Bud.

In Honor of Ciara Brook's birthday.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

In Loving Memory of my grandmother,  
Theresa Darney's January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1900 birthday  
(the first baby born that year).  
Given by Marcia Darney.

~~~~~

Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

Thank you for your continued support
of the flower and bulletin ministry.
Happy New Year and God's blessings
to each and every one of you!
Nancy and Joy.

~~~~~

*Helping with today's worship*

Worship Assistant: Open      Ushers: Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

## ***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

**Thank You** to everyone who sponsored poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve worship! Please initial the sheet on the lectern when you take your plants. Any plants remaining after Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> will be given to a good home.

**Christmas Closings:** The church office and SPES will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup>, reopening on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. We wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

**2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the back of the church.**

**Prayer Group:** Need a warm, cozy, and uplifting break from winter? Join us on **Wednesday, January 8th at 11 am.** in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access)! KINDNESS is our Fruit of the Spirit for January. Our prayers and discussion will center around Random Acts of Kindness. Give us a try, we're people friendly and refreshing! Our gathering is under an hour and includes time for fellowship and sharing! Let's open our hearts to the Lord. Jump in and join us and bring your coffee or hot chocolate!

**Sponsorships Available:** Flowers for the 8:45 am. worship on 1/26 and bulletins for 1/12 (contact the church office). Flowers for the 10:15 am. worship on 1/19 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**PLEASE NOTE:** In 2025, pricing on floral arrangements will increase to be more in-line with pricing from the florist. Until pricing is finalized, please "pay as you go" using current pricing for floral sponsorships. Also, when you return the vases for Rose Vase sponsorships, the church receives a \$3 discount!

**Christmas Card Boxes:** Christmas Card boxes are located in the back of the church. Place cards to your church friends in the boxes under the first letter of the recipient's last name. Don't forget to check for cards sent to you! If you see cards addressed to an and at-home worshipper, consider taking the card/s to him/her. Please also consider donating any money you saved on postage to a church mission. The boxes will be removed after worship on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**For every NEW regular deposit account** opened at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton branch only) St. Peter's Lutheran Church receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130 or go to EasternSavingsBank.com.

***News from St. Peter's Elementary School & PACE***

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year begins in mid-January. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

The Poppin' Popcorn online fundraiser begins on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and runs to January, 18<sup>th</sup>. The school earns 50% of sales! Contact the school for a flier.

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month for a delicious fundraiser at Frank's Pizza & Pasta (6620 Belair Rd., 21206). Fliers with additional details are posted at the red awning door and the church office lobby. You can also obtain a flier through the school office (410-665-4521). **PLEASE NOTE: The January fundraiser night is Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**