

Let the words of
my mouth and the
meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O LORD,
my rock and
my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14, NRSV

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

January 26th, 2025

2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

Church Website: <https://www.saintpeterslc.org/>

Church Email: saintpetersnc@gmail.com

Pastor Sue Lynn White

(cell 770-833-1922) (pastorsuelynn@gmail.com)

Third Sunday after Epiphany: January 26th, 2025

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

***C: Amen.**

*P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*P: Merciful God,

***C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

*P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

***C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314

APOSTOLIC GREETING

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ***C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading.....Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

L: A reading from Nehemiah the 8th chapter.....(Lector: Linda Lambirth)

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,**

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,**

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;**

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleans me from my secret faults.**

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading.....1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the 12th chapter.....(Linda Lambirth)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not

make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

*C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Holy Gospel.....Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

*P: The Gospel of our Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Sermon

The Sermon.....Pastor Sue Lynn White

***Hymn of the Day Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715**

***APOSTLES’ CREED.....**(Assistant Minister: Sierra Pressley)

***A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

***C:** 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

*A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

***C: hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

***C: hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

***C: hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery especially Marlene Shue, Phil & Carol Boyette, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Guy & Betty Puckett, Lynn DeBerry, John Trexler, Marcia Ritchie, Kathy Brown, Nancy Blackwelder, Debbi Duke, Nancy Monroe, Thelma Barger, Lucy Shue, Carson Puckett, Jean Holshouser, and those we hold in our hearts and lift before you now. God of grace,

***C: hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (*especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members*). God of grace,

***C: hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace, ***C: hear our prayer.**

*P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

*C: **Amen.**

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

*C: **And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING

Anthem

Offering Hymn...“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”ELW 884

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow,
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low,
praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host,
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

*A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

*C: **Amen.**

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE

*P: The Lord be with you

*C: **And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.

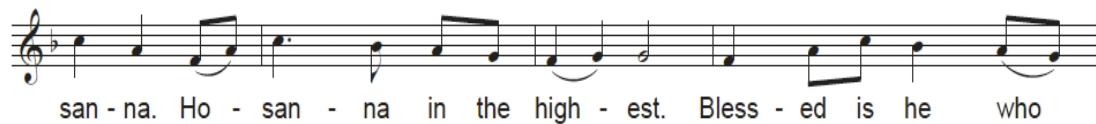
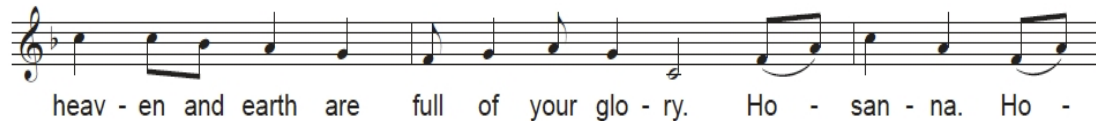
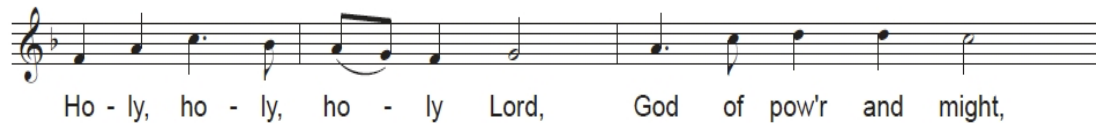
*C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

*C: **Holy, Holy, Holy**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

*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 COMMUNION

*P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD

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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

***P:** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***A:** Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

***C: Amen.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

***C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN We Are Marching In The Light ELW 866**

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

*P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

**Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity Postlude*