



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Epiphany 2
January 18, 2026

Introduction

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Overview

Seeing and Telling Who Jesus Is

The time after Epiphany is the church's time to invite us to come and see who this one born in a manger will be, and to discover what this one born to a young woman might mean for us and for the world. Today's gospel tells us that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," "the Son of God," and "the Messiah." These appellations show us that the coming of Jesus has meaning not just for those who follow him, but for all people and all the world. In the gospel, neither John nor Andrew can contain their testimony about who Jesus is. They have had an encounter with Christ that has had such an impact on their lives that they cannot help but tell others about it. John tells his disciples and everyone else within earshot about Jesus. Andrew runs to find his brother, Peter, and brings him to Jesus so that Peter might have the same life-changing encounter he himself has experienced.

We are invited to "come and see" who Jesus is. We are reminded that God's forgiveness and love proclaimed in Jesus Christ is meant to be good news for us and for all people. As we encounter Christ, our lives are changed. Like John and Andrew in today's gospel, we are called to share with others who we have seen Jesus to be.

WORDS OF WELCOME
PRELUDE

Juliet Mitton

The Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 116

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN We Are Marching in the Light ELW# 866

*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 Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold
us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and
faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 49:1-7**

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

1 Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
3 And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
4 But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
and my reward with my God."

5 And now the Lord says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
 and my God has become my strength—

6 he says,

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7 Thus says the Lord,

 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: **Psalm 40:1-11** (read responsively)

I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)

1 I waited patiently upon the Lord,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

3 The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the

Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

7 And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

8 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.'"

9 I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

10 I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

11 You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW # 172
(2 times)

*GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

P The holy gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

29 [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." 35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed,

"Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Gail Wolling

*HYMN OF THE DAY Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult ELW # 696
(vs. 1,3,5)

*APOSTLE'S CREED ELW p.127

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 As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, especially *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachel Benkovic, Elijah Dean, Duck Harris, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, and Jeff Myers*. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community especially our food and clothing ministries. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

*PEACE

ELW p. 128

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kumbaya

Choir

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

ELW# 677

*Blessing of Worship Furnishings

P Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart this bourse to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children; and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.

Send your blessing on this bourse which we set apart today; may it adorn this house, show us the beauty of holiness, and so proclaim the glory of your majesty.

May we make use of it in reverence and love, giving glory to your holy name.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

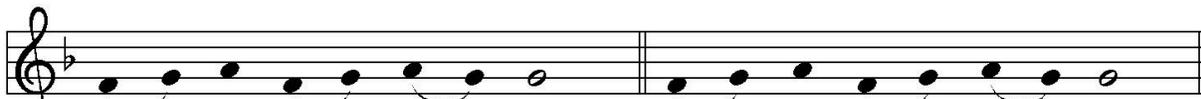
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p.129



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

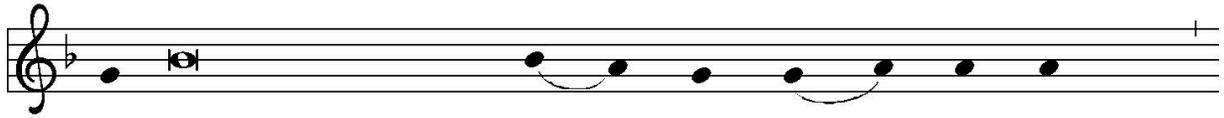


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

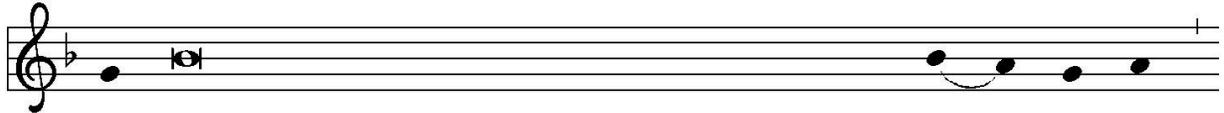


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE



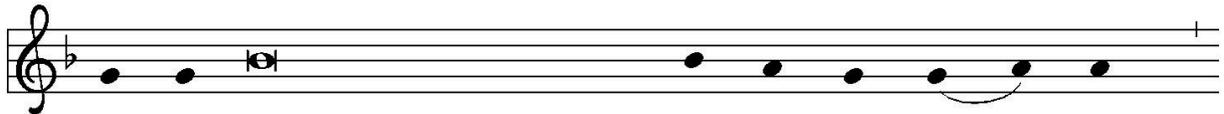
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



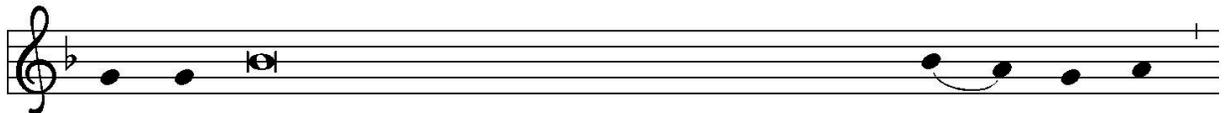
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



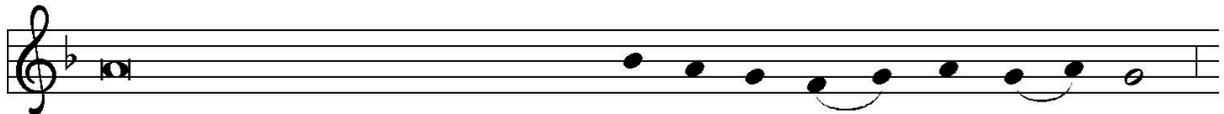
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



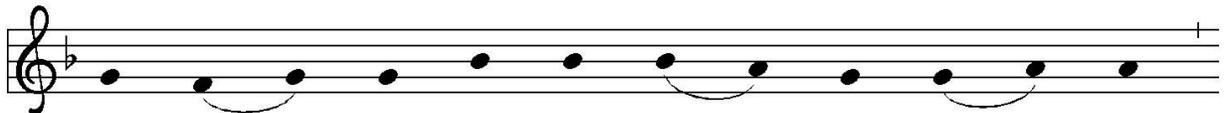
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



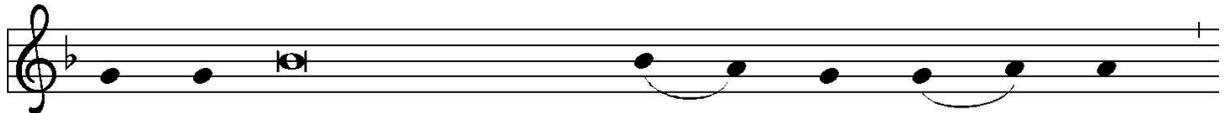
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



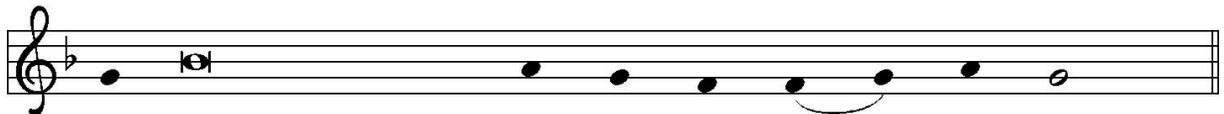
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.



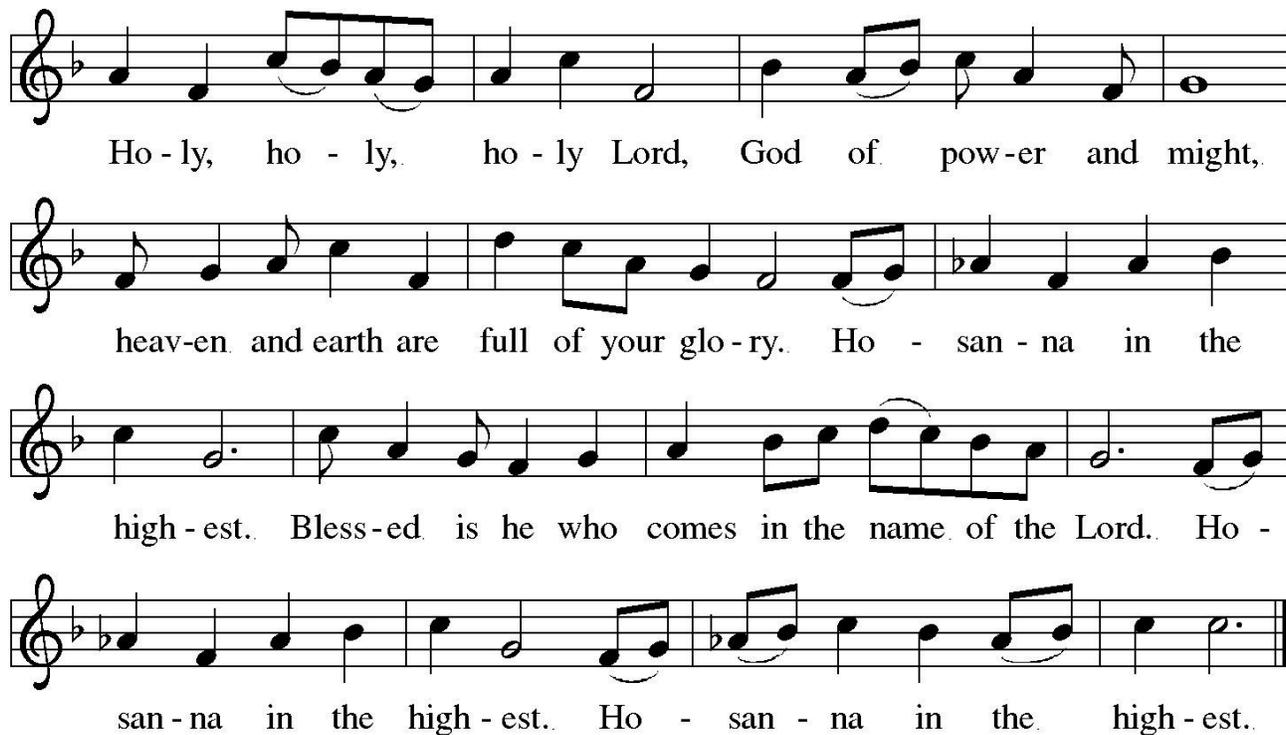
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



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

***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 in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

ELW p.112

P 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.

***SHARING THE MEAL**

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God	ELW p.135
Brightest and Best of the Stars (v. 1-3)	ELW# 303
Hail to the Lord's Anointed	ELW# 311

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray.
Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to
your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives
may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we
have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW# 841

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Juliet Mitton

***Thank you, Rev. Gail Wolling for presiding over worship
today, you are a blessing to us.***

***We appreciate Juliet Mitton for sharing her musical talent with
us this morning. Thank you, Juliet.***

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Prelude - Juliet Mitton

Gathering Hymn - "We are Marching in the Light" ELW #866 arr. @1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music text-PUBLIC DOMAIN

Gospel Acclamation - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 (2 times) PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of the Day - "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult" ELW #696 (vs. 1, 3 & 5) PUBLIC DOMAIN GALILEE

Special Music - "Kumbaya" arr. Paul Sjolund @1983 Hinshaw Music Traditional Spiritual - Choir

Offertory Hymn - "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677 PUBLIC DOMAIN words & music - African American Spiritual

Sanctus - "Holy, Holy, Holy" p. 130, setting 2, ELW

Distribution of Communion - Lamb of God, p.135, ELW, setting 2 "Brightest and Best of the Stars" ELW #303 (v. 1-3) PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" ELW #311 PUBLIC DOMAIN

Sending Hymn - "Lift Every Voice and Sing" ELW #841 PUBLIC DOMAIN text - James W. Johnson music - J. Rosamond Johnson

Postlude - Juliet Mitton

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Highspire Contact Information:

Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Highspire, Pennsylvania 17034-0097

Office Phone: 717-939-3492

E-mail: stpetershighspire240@gmail.com

For pastoral care, please reach out to the church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at stpetershighspire240@gmail.com. You can also call Patrick Hawkins at 717-903-2987.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We are in need of sponsors for the altar flowers on the following Sunday's:

February 1st ; February 8th

If you would be interested, please reach out to Helene Hoch at 717-343-8397. Thank you!

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God by Kane and Donna High as a gift to the church.

Worship Participants for January 18, 2026

Presiding Minister	Rev. Gail Wolling
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Lector	Randy Hoover

Worship Participants for January 25, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Cindy Brommer
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Worship Assistant	Sally Schonewolf
Lector	Matt Hunt

CHOIR REHEARSALS

This Wednesday, January 21st, there will be rehearsal for the Praise Team at 7:00pm. Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord through music! Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

All are Welcome Bible Study

The *All are Welcome Bible Study* meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at

allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for our Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on January 25th, 2026. There will be lunch provided by the Council. If you plan on attending, the council is asking for you to bring a dessert to share! Hope to see everyone there!

Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed

The thirty-ninth Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be held on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, 2026, in person at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 839

West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. We are looking for 2 volunteers from our congregation to represent St. Peter's at Synod Assembly. If you would be interested, please let any member of council, or the church secretaries know if you would be interested.

Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA

The LCC is starting their campaign drive for 2026. Our congregation donates to this ministry and if you would like to help with contributing to this donation, please let Pat Hawkins or the church office know by calling 717-939-3492.

Come to church and stay for fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.