

**Order of Service – January 1, 2017 - Service of Prayer and Praise  
First Sunday after Christmas**

**Music:** Brock & Merry Jo Smith

**Speaker:** Daniel Bidulock

---

***Good morning and welcome to our service.***

***If you need increased volume*** for the service, please see one of our ushers for an audio headset.

***If you are visiting St. Peter's today***, please tell us about yourself by filling out one of the brochures in the seat pocket in front of you and leave it in the offering tray.

***For the parents***, if you need to use a Cry Room for your children you are welcome to use the walkway area. The television there displays our service.

***Wednesday Morning Prayer Group*** meets at 10:00 am here in the walkway.

***"The Power of a Whisper" Study*** will continue on January 12, 2017, 11:30 am, at the church with Pastor Bart.

***The Acts Bible study*** led by Bob Peters will continue on January 12, 2017 here at St. Peter's. New people are welcome to attend.

***Slovakia Mission*** is tentatively scheduled for August 16-28, 2017. Running an ESL VBS program for children/youth, with the help of Slovak translators. Possibly doing an adult women's book study. Possibly prayer ministry. Staying with billets or in a Bible school dorm. Estimated cost including flights, food and accommodation: \$2500.00 per person.

***Interested in Hosting a small Group Study.*** Talk to Pastor Bart.

***Interested in Teaching Sunday School.*** Talk to Pastor Bart.

***Not Now! It's Too Early! It's Too Difficult! I'm Too Young!***

Whether you die suddenly or have a life-limiting illness, you need to put plans into place that will lighten the load on your family and honor your end of life wishes. Planning ahead will mean that your family doesn't have to make these difficult decisions under pressure.

Join Rick Bergh and his special guests for an afternoon of education and inspiration that will help you...

- See the importance of discussing your end-of-life plans.
- Make decisions based on important questions that determine YOUR final wishes.
- Get started in formulating your plans and documenting your desires.

By the end of the afternoon, you will have practical tools to help you begin these important conversations.

***St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 4pm***

---

**Opening Hymn: Away in a Manger**

**LBW 67**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes  
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there

## **Greeting and Announcements**

### **Bringing in the Light and Opening Prayer**

#### **Prayer of the Day**

**All:** Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### **Praise Songs: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,

by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

### **While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around,  
“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;  
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind,

“To you, in David’s town this day is born of David’s line  
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign  
“The heav’nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all humbly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid.”

This spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song  
“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;  
good will hence forth from heav’n to all begin and never cease

### **Old Testament Lesson      Isaiah 63:7-14**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely”;  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

But they rebelled  
and grieved his holy spirit;  
therefore he became their enemy;  
he himself fought against them.

Then they remembered the days of old,  
of Moses his servant.

Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea  
with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is the one who put within them  
his holy spirit,  
who caused his glorious arm  
to march at the right hand of Moses,

who divided the waters before them  
to make for himself an everlasting name,  
who led them through the depths?  
Like a horse in the desert,  
they did not stumble.  
Like cattle that go down into the valley,  
the spirit of the Lord gave them rest.  
Thus you led your people,  
to make for yourself a glorious name.

### **Psalm 111**

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.  
Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.  
He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.  
He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.  
The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.  
They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.  
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

### **Epistle Lesson Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**This is the Word of the Lord**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Gospel Matthew 2:13-23**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of

Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

## Sermon

### When Christmas Morn is Dawning

When Christmas morn is dawning  
In faith I would repair  
Unto the lowly manger;  
My Savior lieth there,  
Unto the lowly manger;  
My Savior lieth there.

How kind, O loving Savior,  
To come from Heav'n above;  
From sin and evil save us,  
And keep us in Thy love,  
From sin and evil save us,  
And keep us in Thy love.

We need Thee, blessèd Jesus,  
Our dearest friend Thou art;  
Forbid that we by sinning  
Should grieve Thy loving heart,  
Forbid that we by sinning  
Should grieve Thy loving heart,

### Confession and Absolution:

**Congregation:** Heavenly Father, we confess that no matter how hard we try, we will never achieve a life without sin. You want us to think of others but instead, we think of ourselves. We do things we shouldn't and we don't do the things that we should. In spite of all this, we ask for Your mercy and Your forgiveness, and to lead us into a life more like the life of Your Son, Jesus. Amen."

**Leader:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

## Offering

### Offertory Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

### Offertory Prayer

(p. 67 LBW)

All: Blessed are you,  
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prayers for the Family of God

### Prayers for Invitation

### Sharing of Gods Peace

### Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

### Closing Song: Go Tell It On The Mountain

LBW 70

#### Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

## Chorus

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.  
Chorus

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
Chorus

## Postlude

---