

Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:21-24

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022
10:15 Worship Service
Pastor Brandon Johns*

BELL RINGING

The Lenten Cross Garden will grow each week as a different symbol of Christ is added at the foot of the cross. Its stark beauty prepares us for the extravagant beauty of the Resurrection Garden on Easter Morning.

WINE *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished".*
– John 19:30

Feasts and festivities have been marked by the sharing of wine for millennia. On the cross, Jesus was offered vinegar wine as an insult to mock his suffering. As God's suffering servant, Jesus bore every insult and pain that human sin could produce and in return, offered his own lifeblood so all could share in the feast without end.

We pause to reflect as the wine is added to the cross garden.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING LITANY (*Psalm 26:8, 7, 2, 3*)

Lord, I love the house in which you dwell

and the place where your glory abides.

I sing aloud a song of thanksgiving,

and recount all your wonderful deeds.

Test me, O Lord, and try me;

examine my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

O Lord our God, show us your everlasting love,

that we may serve you from the obedience of our hearts.

Lead us in the way of your peace,

that our souls may be restored.

Fill our imaginations with the wonders of your creation,

that our minds may reflect your glory.

Guide us in the way of the cross,

that we might proclaim the strength of your love.

GATHERING HYMN: Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

CONFESSION AND REASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, remember us in your love, and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The greeting of peace is shared.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary

John M. Moore

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 32 (Read Responsively)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my
guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you
forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble;**

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay
near you.”

**¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

love

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; ²⁵when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your

brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.’³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Heavenly Father, Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation.

The response for each petition is: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the front and rear of the nave.



OFFERING SONG: God Gave to Me a Life to Live

1 God gave to me a life to live; God
 2 When I am helped to see what's good, and

gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with
 led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing

which to care; God gave me love that I might share.
 God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.

THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right.... join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and help 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**

INSTRUCTION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time Pastor will take a moment to explain how the distribution of Holy Communion will take place from our seats. The explanation will conclude with the Invitation to Communion and then we will commune.

The elements of the Sacrament are offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. And The blood of Christ, shed for you.

For children who do not communion, lay hand(s) on each child and offer this or another blessing:

“May you know the happiness that comes from the forgiveness of your sins which God has given you. Amen.”

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Let us share now in the heavenly banquet that has no end.

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG: What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



SHARING FOR SERVING: BIRTHDAYS AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Camp Lutherlyn. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Lutherlyn.

Jan Hogan	Ed Smith
Luke Clawson	Carla Osborne
Cole Barkley	Ralph Kerr
Amy Anthony	Joyce Hayes (cancer)- hospice
Ray Middleton	David English
Ron Crider (knee surgery)	Florence Lindgren

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter’s in your prayers.
“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

*Today’s Altar Flowers
are given by Bea King
In loving memory of
Greg & Alan King*

*The eternal candle is
Given by Teresa O’Malley
In loving memory of
Jerome O’Malley*

Easter Candy Orders- St. Peter’s Lutherlyn Campers are selling Easter Candy. There is an order form on the table in Luther Hall to sign up on. All orders are due by today.



Rosebud on the altar- is placed by Great Grandmother Pat Capella in honor of Cash Howard English born Feb. 14· 2022. Proud parents are Shayla & Ian English. Grandparents are Sheli & Scott Grosick & Vicki & Dr. David English. Congratulations and God’s blessings to all of you!

Meager Meals – on Thursday evenings at 6 pm we will gather before worship to eat soup and bread together. If you would like to provide either for a night or nights, please sign up in Luther Hall.

Fellowship Survey- please take a moment to fill out the survey from the fellowship committee regarding upcoming events. Mark your favorite of things that you would attend and return it to the offering plate or church office. **(All trips over \$25 include coach bus transportation.)**



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Presiding Bishop (ELCA)	The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Synodical Bishop (SWPA Synod)	The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Heidi Beahm
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Lector	Jane Taylor
Acolyte	Ethan Thomas
Bell Ringer	Davin Beahm
Ushers	Troy Barkley & Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Fri.	3:30 pm	After School Program
Mon. Mar. 28	7:00 pm	Boy/Cub Scouts Meeting
	7:00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Wed. Mar. 30	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir Practice
Thur. Mar. 31	9:00 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Meager Meals
	7:00 pm	Lent Service
Fri. Apr. 1	11:00 am	500 Card Club (pot luck lunch)

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery- is self-serve and available on for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared to children ages 5 and up.

Office Hours:

Heidi Beahm, our secretary, is in the church office Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM until Noon.

Pastor Johns can also be reached at the church.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month