

Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*First Sunday of Lent*

*February 18, 2024*  
*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.*

**WOOD** *He went out, bearing his own cross. – John 19:17*

Wood has always been both a symbol of sacrifice and life, from fruit trees to altar fires to shepherd's staffs. In the cross, the focal point of our Lenten garden, the wood of sacrifice and of life become one. To it we add the shepherd's staff, for it is the Good Shepherd who leads us on this life-giving journey to the cross.

*We pause to reflect as the Shepherd's staff is added to the cross garden.*

**GATHERING LITANY:                      Lifted Up in LOVE: Reaching Out in Love**

*(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards, we sing after a chord is played.)*

***God loved the world so that he gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.***

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

**that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

God reached down in love to give us his Son.

**So we reach out in love this Lenten season**

***Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death:  
All then who trust in him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.***

With arms extended on the cross, Jesus embraced the whole world with his matchless love.

**So we embrace those around us with the Good News that we are dearly loved by our God and that love can never pass away.**

In his life on earth, Jesus put out his hand to heal the sick and the dying.

**But his greatest healing came on the cross when he healed the sickness of sin within us.**

We no longer need to live in fear.

**because we now live in God's grace.**

Jesus breathed his life on Good Friday

**that new life may be breathed into us through his death.**

We lift up our lives to the Lord this Lent and always

**that we may pray to him, give of ourselves and freely serve in a loving manner all our days.**

*God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.*

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENIOR CHOIR**      *The Mystery*      Jean Shafferman & Anna Page

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17**

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that

never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

**PSALM 25:1-10** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

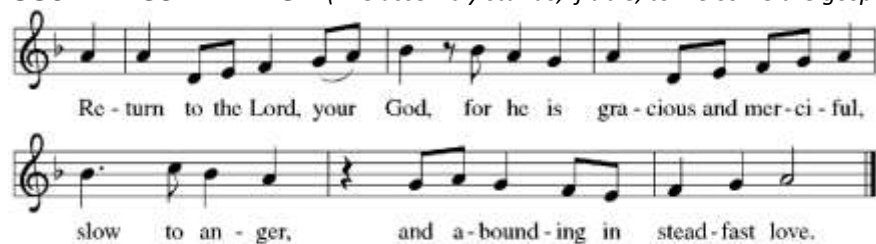
<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.*)



## GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.



## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of Christian faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people, especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today and Martin Luther King, Jr., a renewer of our society.

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.*

## CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



## 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 be instruments of your peace, and know the joy of life eternal; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

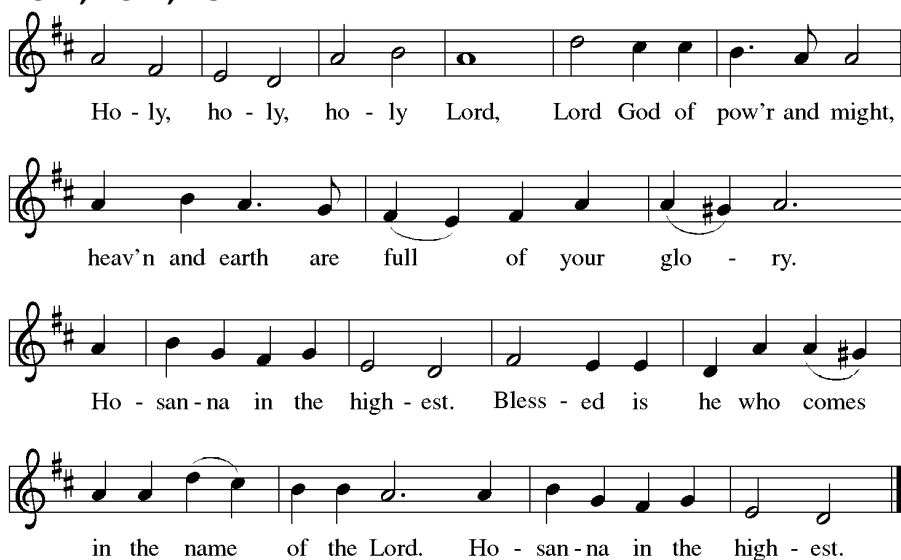
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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.



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death  
to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## LAMB OF GOD (sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

**The Sacrament will be offered with these words:**

The body of Christ, given for you.

And The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Optional responses* **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

## 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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of thankful hearts; 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 HYMN: Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897. alt.  
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM. Adam Drese. 1620–1701

## SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve with joy. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Great Is The Lord*

Roy E. Nolte

Anniversary Celebration – Our celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has only begun! We are still uncovering previously unknown pictures and information that turn out to be gems, like the close up of our old Sanctuary stained-glass window. If you have pictures or news to share from our church history, like pictures from activities or how the inside and outside of the church used to look or wedding photos, please share them with Rita to add to the fun of our celebration. Just a reminder, too, that the commemorative Wendell August Forge ornaments are still available. Please see Marsha Reedy for those.

*Did You Know...* We once had our own cemetery. It was about where our church garden is now! Graves were moved to combine cemeteries together. Don't worry, the rototiller only turns up rocks and dirt.

**Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February**

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

Sherry was raised and confirmed here at St. Peters.

*Today's altar flowers  
are given by  
Patti & Charlie Flach  
in honor of their anniversary.*



*The eternal candle  
is presented by  
Teresa O'Malley  
in celebration of Love.*

**Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:**

- |                                  |                          |                 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Cole Barkley                     | Helen Barto              | Luke Clawson    |
| John Vrana                       | Mark Phillips            | Michael Clawson |
| Nancy Riedel                     | The Corniby Family       | Mary Lutz       |
| Sally & Curt Frank               | Stephanie Hogan          | Orvis Davis     |
| Bernard Buxton                   | Sue Goehring             | Anastyn Hogan   |
| Raquel Barron                    | Patty Grubbs             | Bill Boice      |
| Carol Kerr                       | Dan & Mary Brittner      |                 |
| The Family of Karen Marburger    | The Family of Fred Flach |                 |
| The Family of Patrick Bender Jr. |                          |                 |

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*



## **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)  
Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod)  
Pastor  
Music Director and Organist  
Office Secretary  
Sexton  
Acolyte  
Assistant Minister  
Bell Ringer  
Greeters  
Lector  
Nursery  
Ushers  
Tech Support

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow  
The Rev. Brandon Johns  
Marlene Domhoff  
Kimberly Peaco  
Joe Ludwik  
Owen Price  
Ted Lindgren II  
Adam Price  
Pam Volz & Cheryl Thomas  
Ted Lindgren III  
Cheryl Thomas  
Heidi Beahm & Brian Johns  
Adam Price

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### **St. Peter's Upcoming Events:**

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|                |          |                      |
|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| Mon. – Fri.    | 4 – 6 pm | After School Program |
| Mon. Feb 19    | 7 pm     | Sowers               |
|                | 7 pm     | Boy Scouts           |
| Tues. Feb. 20  | 7 pm     | Council Meeting      |
| Wed. Feb. 21   | 12 pm    | Lunch Bunch          |
|                | 5:30 pm  | Manna Night          |
|                | 7 pm     | Choir Practice       |
| Thurs. Feb. 22 | 9 am     | Quilters Group       |
|                | 6 pm     | Meager Meal          |
|                | 7 pm     | Lenten Service       |
|                | 8 pm     | Bible Study          |

**Meager Meals & Service** – will be held weekly starting Thursday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Soup and bread will be served starting at 6 pm and the service will follow at 7 pm. Sign up in Luther Hall to donate soup and/or bread for these meals.

**Lunch Bunch** – This month, with the timing of Ash Wednesday, our regular gathering will be pushed back by a week. We will meet for lunch at noon at Union Brothers in Harmony on Wednesday, 2/21.

**Council** – Because of Shrove Tuesday falling on our usual meeting day, our monthly meeting will shift to the following Tuesday, 2/20.

**Fish Fry** – Please mark your calendars for our annual Lenten Fish Fry. It will be held on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4 - 6:30 pm this year. Volunteers and donations are always welcome! Debbie Merrison is the chairperson for the Fellowship Committee this year, so please take a moment to talk with her if you have any questions, would like to help, or have ideas for fellowship activities in the coming year.

**Food Drive** – Thank you to everyone who donated cereal in January! In February, we will focus on collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Food Cupboard, using the same table, as we look to make our anniversary year a celebration of service.

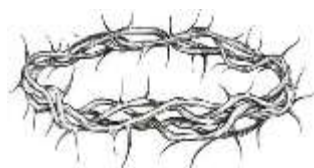
**Fasting for Change** - This Lent consider not just the discipline of giving something up, but also giving something toward. As part of your Lenten journey, you are invited to donate the money you would have spent on what you have given up (eating out, sweets or your morning latte) to Lutherlyn's Building for the Future capital campaign, which has allowed for them to renovate the Amphitheater and will next add new cabins. Coin boxes are on tables in Luther Hall or you are welcome to mark the Other line on your contribution envelope. You may choose to donate weekly, or give the sum of your savings at the end of Lent. This is a great individual or family project to take on this Lenten season.

*Note: offerings given in the contribution envelopes designated to Lent will help us to bring the President of the Toliara Synod of Madagascar to our congregation and synod for a fellowship-building visit.*

**Lent Devotions** – Please take a devotional book to enhance your and/or your family's Lent journey. They are up front by the bulletins.

## **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 staffed by a volunteer and available 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 for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

## **Staying in Touch:**

Our secretary is in the church office Monday-Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: [stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net](mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net)

Pastor Email: [rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.stpeterslutheran-evanscity.org](http://www.stpeterslutheran-evanscity.org)

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

## **RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

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