

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

10:15 am Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: God Whose Almighty Word

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM *Every Day My Savior Leads Me* Jay Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

- ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power, not one is missing.
- ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
- ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c (*Read Responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The Lord heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The Lord counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon
the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

This is the Word of the Lord. 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.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. *This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world.

The response for each petition is:

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

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

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of wonder, **you formed us in our mother's womb, and from the cradle of Creation you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

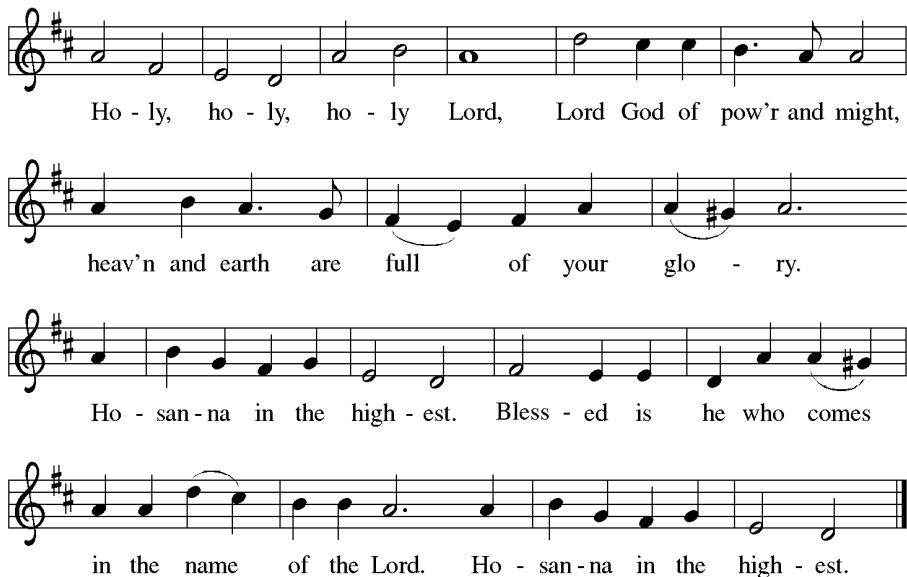
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering
those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread
and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand
before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and peace.

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.

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

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **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: This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Angelique Doreves.

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus* Roger C. Wilson

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February

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

<p><i>Today's altar flowers are given by Lucille P. Wingard in loving memory of Lynette L. Wingard</i></p>		<p><i>The eternal candle is presented by Teresa O'Malley in celebration of Love.</i></p>
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Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Karen Marburger	Fred Flach	John Vrana
Nancy Riedel	Michael Clawson	Orvis Davis
Sally & Curt Frank	Julie S.	Raquel Baron
Mary Lutz	Mark Phillips	Stephanie Hogan
Rick Reifenstein	Kurt & Kayla	The Corniby Family
Bernard Buxton	The family of Marlene Nagle	
The family of Linda Malchano		The family of Henry Scheibel

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

Cards for Karen Marburger - Karen is currently recovering at St. John Specialty Care Center in Mars and cards help brighten her day!
Please see Janice or Marge Wearing for more information.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School
Mon. Feb. 5 th	6:30 pm	Fellowship Mtg.
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:30 pm	Anniversary Mtg.
Tues. Feb. 6 th	7:00 pm	Property Mtg.
Wed. Feb 7 th	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Feb. 8 th	9:00 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Sat. Feb. 10 th	4:00 pm	SPY Event



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
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Penelope Erin
Assisting Minister	Teresa O'Malley
Bell Ringer	Joe Ludwik
Greeters	Denny & Inez Schmidt
Lector	Troy Barkley
Nursery	Staci Bettencourt
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Cindy & Tom Ayers

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.

Anniversary Celebration – Welcome to the 175th Anniversary of our congregation! Next Sunday, we welcome Bishop Kusserow, who will be here to help us kick off our months-long celebration by helping to lead worship that morning and eating with us at the potluck luncheon we will have after the service. He will also lead a forum during Sunday School. Other ways of celebrating this year include the commemorative ornament that is for sale, the cookbook that is on its way, an updated history, and a catered dinner on October 6th at Lutherlyn. If you would like to be a patron of any of these special productions, please talk to Rita Reifenstein or Pastor.

Looking Ahead...Lent



Feb. 13	Shrove Tuesday 5:30 pm – Dinner 6:45 pm – Talent Show 8:00 pm – Burial of the Alleluia and Palms
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday 11 am – Service at Zion Lutheran 7 pm – Service at St. Peter's
Feb. 22	Meager Meal – 6 pm Lent Service – 7 pm (with communion) Bible Study – 8 pm
Feb. 29	Meager Meal – 6 pm Lent Service – 7 pm (with communion) Bible Study – 8 pm
March 24	Holy Week begins

SPY – On Saturday, February 10th, we will meet here at 4 pm. We'll start with a service project, which will be doing the monthly food pack up downstairs. Afterwards we will have dinner together. Once dinner is over, we'll head to St. Paul's in Zelienople for their Open Mic Night. You will be welcome to share a song, sung or played on an instrument, jokes, a story, or anything else that could bring a laugh or cheer. Youth can be picked up from there or from St. Peter's around 9 pm. Friends are always welcome. Please let Pastor know if you or your youth can make it!

Jr. SPY – On Saturday, February 17th, our third through sixth graders will gather at the church for dinner and fellowship together at 5:00 pm. Starting at 6:30 pm, Game Night starts and all youth are invited to stay and join in the fun and games (and snacks) at Game Night.

Game Night – In case you skipped reading the Jr. SPY announcement above, Game Night is Saturday, February 17th. It will feature the return of *Challenge the Pastor*. Bring a game and challenge Pastor. If you beat him at your own game, you will earn a prize!

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, February 21st.

Council – Because of Shrove Tuesday falling on our usual meeting day, our monthly meeting will shift to the following Tuesday, which is February 20th. Everyone is always welcome to attend.

Fish Fry – Please mark your calendars for our annual Lenten Fish Fry. It will be held on Friday, March 8th, 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 other ideas for fellowship activities in the coming year. Thank you!

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

After School Program

Hoagie Fundraiser



Orders Due Wednesday, February 14th
Pick up Saturday, Feb. 24th at 10 am *

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

** All prepaid orders not picked up on Saturday morning will be in one of the refrigerators at church with names on them.*

8" Hoagies packaged in individual containers
(lettuce, tomato & dressing are bagged separately)

Regular Hoagie: Bologna, Ham, Hard Salami, American Cheese	Italian Hoagie: Capicola, Pepperoni, Salami	Turkey & Provolone Cheese	Total # of Hoagies Ordered

Total Due
(\$7 each)

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 church office is open Monday through 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

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

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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