Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Scout Sunday

February 23, 2025 10:15 am Worship Service Pastor Brandon Johns

PRELUDE

BELL RINGING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus wades in the waters of our lives calling us, gathering us to be his people.

In turn, the Holy Spirit has surrounded us with the voices of Scripture and saints so that we might remain loyal to Christ's call above all else and trustworthy in our discipleship.

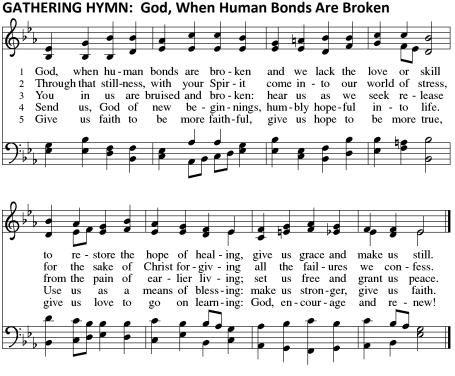
Jesus walks alongside of us, calling us into paths of service. Following the one whose ministry reached out to heal, we engage all people in ways that are friendly and courteous, so that in treating them as neighbors, we might be as neighbors to all people through loving service that is helpful and kind.

Jesus' call to paths of justice and equity are familiar but fresh for us. The mission to proclaim the good news of the kingdom in word and deed remains unchanged but that calling still changes us today, so that we might be obedient to the voice of God no matter where it leads us and cheerful no matter what obstacles we encounter along the way.

Jesus goes before us teaching by example the true way of our calling. In making us disciples, the Holy Spirit has enlightened us with gifts, such as faith and grace, and a myriad of talents, so that we might be thrifty stewards of the blessings of God, always brave in leveraging them for the sake of others to the best of our ability out of love for God and our neighbor.

Jesus dwells within us, empowering us to accomplish the ventures to which he calls us.

Though we falter and fail, God leads us into repentance and daily creates in us a clean heart through the ongoing benefits of our baptism, so that we might reflect purely the holy light of God and spend this day through all eternity in reverent worship of God who created, redeemed, and sustains us.



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929 Musie: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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!





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

Circle of Praise

Pepper Choplin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11,15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' "¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 37: 1-11, 39-40 (Read Responsively)

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

- ² For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- ³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.
- ⁶ The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, leaverage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a lifegiving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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



GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

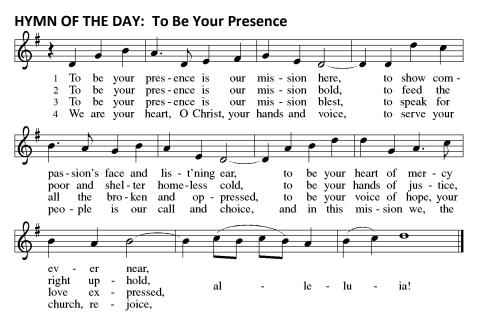
[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

SERMON



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

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

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

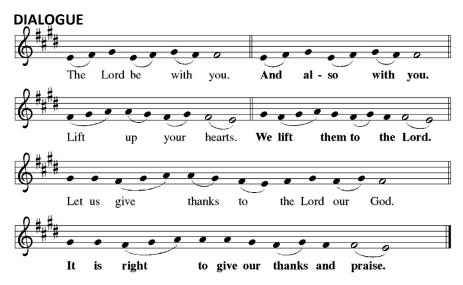
Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

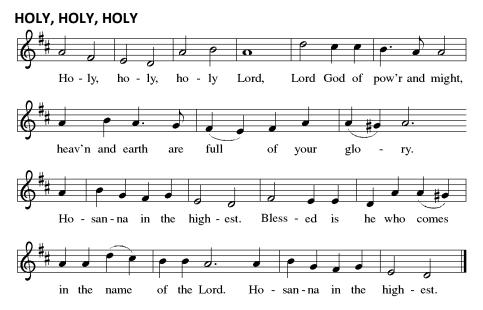


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.



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



EUCHARISTIC 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.**

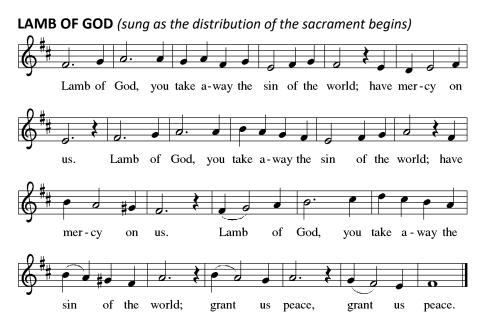
LORD'S PRAYER

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.





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. Radiant God with our eyes we have seen your salvation and, in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**



Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Grand Chorus

Reginald W. Martin

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

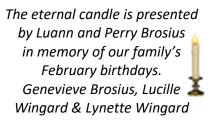
Cole Barkley Roberta Domhoff Pastor Tony Schneck David & Betty Wobb Amy Grigorovich Troy Barkley Lisa Burr Berty McMillen Carmen Morra Tyanna Rausch Stella Baer Luke Clawson Gary Checkan Kim Fields Kay Burr Jerry McElhinny

The families of Velma Cratty Markell, Jim Fogle & Mary Carol Wilson

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February

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

Today's altar flowers are presented by Karen Ferrari in loving memory of her brother Bob Sarver



The rosebud on the altar is for the birth of Elsie Claire Watson, born February 14th Parents, Robert & Jess Watson Grandparents, Bob & Mary Watson

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:		
MonFri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. Feb. 24 th	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Worship Meeting
Tues. Feb. 25 th	7:00 pm	Dorcas Circle
Wed. Feb. 26 th	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Feb. 27 th	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study

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 Assisting Minister Bell Ringer Greeters Lector Nursery Tech Support Ushers The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow The Rev. Brandon Johns Marlene Domhoff Kimberly Peaco Joe Ludwik Luke Zoelle Glenn Fulghum Scout Scouts Charlie Flach Marge Lindgren Heidi Beahm Joe Ludwik & Dean Zinkhann

<u>Shrove Tuesday</u> – is in ONE week! (March 4) We will have a pancake and sausage dinner beginning at 5:30 pm followed by a talent and jokes show. Best jokes can come from folks of all ages, just remember to keep them G rated for younger ears and in respecting our church family as a whole. We will close with the Burning of the Palms Service. Please sign up to perform during our "talent" show, so we know how to plan the evening and have any staging or props ready. If you would like to help make dinner for Shrove Tuesday, please see Pastor or Bev Critchlow.

<u>Ash Wednesday</u> – March 5th, 7 pm worship.

<u>Meager Meals</u> – is returning this Lent. On Thursday evenings at 6 pm starting on March 13, we will gather before worship to eat soup and bread together. If you would like to provide soup and/or bread for these meals, there will be a sign-up in Luther Hall. Worship is at 7pm.

Bell Choir – Stay after worship to prepare special music for Holy Week and Easter. All are welcome to join in the fun!

<u>Lent Special Offering</u> – Our offerings made during Meager Meals and in the Lent Special Offering envelopes will go to Lutheran Disaster Response and in particular to their aid to people impacted by the devasting wildfires in California.

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 to support Lutheran Service Society. LSS is a collective ministry of our synod and helps people in a variety of ways, including providing adoption and foster care services for children and families in our area. Coin boxes will be available 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.

Food Drive – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting boxes of cereal in February and then condiments in March to supplement the stocks in the food cupboard. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need.

Electronic Giving – Would you like to make online contributions to St. Peter's? You can! Electronic Giving is an alternative way of giving to St. Peter's. If you are interested in giving in this way you will need to download the TITHE.LY app. or long into TITHE.LY using the link provided on our website. After you download the app or log into the web page you will need to set up an account and select St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the "Give Now" option or set up the autopay offering option. We are also in the process of investigating the pros and cons and logistics of having a St. Peter's Venmo account. If you have any input or questions please see Heidi Beahm or Pastor.



<u>Scouts</u> – We are grateful for the mission and ministry of the youth and adults of our Scout troop Evans City #399, praising God for your place within our community. May God's hand continue to bless our

partnership and the work we share in building up people into the individuals and communities that God made them to be.

Reflections on A Scout is Reverent

"And then the final and chief test of the scout is the doing of a good turn to somebody every day, quietly and without boasting. This is the proof of the scout. It is practical religion, and a boy honors God best when he helps others most. A boy may wear all the scout uniforms made, all the scout badges ever manufactured, know all the woodcraft, campcraft, scoutcraft and other activities of boy scouts, and yet never be a real boy scout. To be a real boy scout means the doing of a good turn every day with the proper motive and if this be done, the boy has a right to be classed with the great scouts that have been of such service to their country. To accomplish this a scout should observe the scout law."

BOY SCOUTS HANDBOOK The First Edition, 1911 (p 10)

"A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others. Wonders all around the world remind us of our faith in God. We find it in the tiny secrets of creation and in the great mysteries of the universe. It exists in the kindness of people and in the teachings of our families and religious leaders. We show our reverence by living our lives according to the ideals of our beliefs."

http://ascoutis.org/reverent.php

"The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law." The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. "

Article IX. Policies and Definitions –

From the Boy Scouts of America Charter and Bylaws Section 1. Declaration of Religious Principle, clause 1

Fellowship Volunteering Survey

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who is already helping out with our events. We have a great group of people who serve our church and community. However, we know we have had lots of new people join our congregation over the last few years, so we would like to know who is interested in helping us with our dinners in the following ways:

(Please check all that apply)

- Donate Money
- Donate Food
- □ Help in the Kitchen
- □ Help in the Dining Room
- Doing Dishes

Name:

Phone Number:

Please Circle your communication preference: CALL TEXT

Even if you are already on the fellowship committee or are a regular volunteer for our meals and other events, please take a minute to fill out this brief survey.

You will not be asked for every activity. We are hoping to get enough people to sign up to be able to do a rotation. After all, many hands make light work and many talents make the Body of Christ. Thanks so much for helping!

Chairperson,

Beverly Critchlow

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: <u>stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net</u> Pastor Email: <u>rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com</u> Church Website: <u>www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org</u> 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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