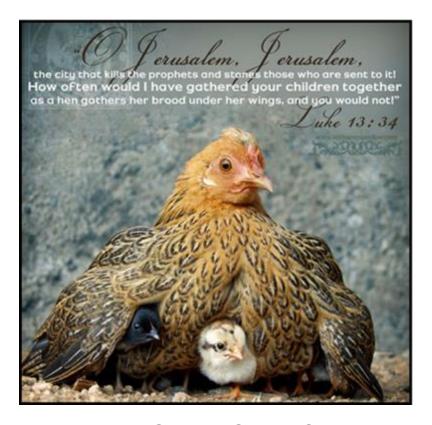
Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Lent with Holy Baptism for Elena Hope Barron

March 16, 2025 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.

THORNS Twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head. – Matthew 27:29

Thorns are an adaptation by plants for defense, and their protection is used by vulnerable animals to survive. Jesus's thorns were meant to mock his royalty, but instead, God uses them as a part of the sovereign plan of salvation. In Jesus' blood freely given, Jesus protects us, the weak and vulnerable, from the eternal effects of our sin and brokenness.

We pause to reflect as the crown of thorns is added to the cross garden.

GATHERING: The WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE: The Truth of the Word

(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.)

You are the truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples." As his disciples, we know the truth that Jesus Christ saves.

That truth has set us free from sin.

From the cross, Jesus spoke this truth: "You will be with me in paradise."

We live in that truth of his Word every day.

You are the truth; in you we find The meaning that we seek; The fact that you are good and kind Bring comfort to the meek. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Jesus spoke to God the Father on our behalf when he prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth."

So the holiness of God is poured into us through Jesus Christ so that we might truly become more and more like him.

The truth of the Gospel has come to you. So we now let it bear fruit among us.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know, That truth to keep, that life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.

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. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE RITE FOR HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

We begin the Rite for Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. In this sacrament, we become children of life, heirs of all God's possessions, God's own children, and brothers and sisters of Christ. As Christ is our brother, we also become brothers and sisters to one another in the communion of all the saints. We begin our new life, we live our new life, and we look forward to the resurrection under the sign of our Baptism. Today God calls Elena Hope by name to enter into this inheritance.

With the gift of baptism, comes expected responsibilities:

to live among God's faithful people,
to come to worship services for the word of God
and the holy supper,
to learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
to engage with the holy scriptures,
and to nurture and be nurtured in your life of faith and prayer,
so that you may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace among all people.

Elena Hope, called by the Holy Spirit, knowing in part the responsibilities of the baptismal life in Christ, and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ? *Response: I do.*

Teresa and Mike, baptismal sponsors for Elena, do you promise to walk with Elena in the living of these responsibilities, nurturing her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and helping her to live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Elena and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

The assembly stands as able.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response: I renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given praise and honor and worship through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Elena Hope is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May you evermore be clothed with the righteousness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake God has now made you His child and promises you the fullness of new life.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Elena with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Receive the sign of the Holy Cross, as a sign that through your baptism you are participating in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through the cross you have been redeemed; in baptism you receive the fullness of this redemption; and henceforth you are called to take up your cross and follow after Christ.

Elena Hope, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Peace be with you. **Amen**.

WELCOME

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Let us pray: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon this family you have made. Let us ever rejoice in the gifts you have given us. Make us teachers and examples of righteousness for Elena and all our children. Please also strengthen all of this assembly in our own Baptism so we may share eternally with Elena the salvation you have given her through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The newly baptized is introduced to the assembly.

CHOIR ANTHEM Unto the Hills I Lift Mine Eyes David W. Music

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates." *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 27 (Read Responsively)

- ¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

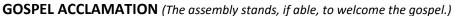
 The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.
- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.
- ⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
 - Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

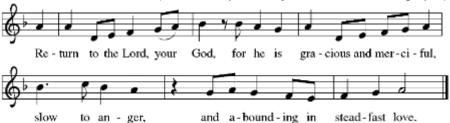
- ⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
- 8 My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face." Your face, O Lord, I will seek.
- Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
 Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁰ Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- ¹² Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.
- ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
- Wait for the Lord and be strong.
 Take heart and wait for the Lord!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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





GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" *This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON





Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent, www.selahpub.com. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

The response for each petition is:

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. 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. 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 mercy, 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)







EUCHARISTIC 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:

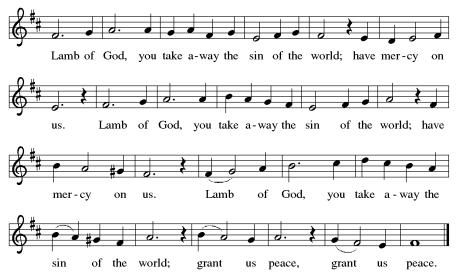
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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)



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 \oplus give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Come Down, O Love Divine (on the following page)

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be merciful as God is merciful. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

March Harmonique

Authur Thomas Gilbert

Today's altar flowers are in memory of Greg & Alan King by Bea King Today's altar flowers are in loving memory of my Dad, Floyd Reinhart by Carol.

The eternal candle is in loving memory of Jerome O'Malley, by Teresa.

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 Camp Lutherlyn.



Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

Prayers Have Been Requested Rece	ently for the Following:
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Cole Barkley	Troy Barkley	Luke Clawson
Roberta Domhoff	Lisa Burr	Gary Checkan
Pr. Tony Schneck	the Jason Family	Kim Fields
David & Betty Wobb	Carmen Morra	Kay Burr
Amy Grigorovich	Berty McMillen	Jerry McElhinny
Stella Baer	Pete Barry	Debbie Vogel
David English	Stephanie Hogan	Lily Delaney
Mike Mashuda	Matthew Haddox	Pat Wolfe
Cliff & Liz Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Jane Brown
Dave & Patty Grubbs	Clark Graham	

Russ, Grayson, and Levi Whittaker at the death of their mom and wife Kayla, as well as, son and brother Ryland.

The families of Melitta Garbuny & Ruth Banyay Mirage

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:			
MonFri.	4-6:00 pm	After School	
Mon. March 17	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts	
Tues. March 18	7:00 pm	WELCA General Meeting	
Wed. March 19	10:00 am	Community Quilting	
	5:30 pm	Manna Night	
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	
Thurs. March 20	10:00 am	Quilters Group	
	6:00 pm	Meager Meal	
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service	
	8:00 pm	Bible Study	
Sat. March 22	6:30 pm	Game Night	

WELCA General Meeting – March 18 at 7 pm in Luther Hall. All women are invited and welcome to attend. Hope to see you then.

<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.

<u>Food Drive</u> – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting condiments in March to supplement the stocks in the food cupboard. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need.

<u>Fasting for Change</u> – 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.

<u>Fish Fry</u> – Friday, March 28^{th} from 4 - 6:30 pm. Sit down as well as take out will be available. This is a free will offering 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)
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. Kurt A. Kusserow
The Rev. Brandon Johns
Marlene Domhoff
Kimberly Peaco
Joe Ludwik
Rylee Taylor
Teresa O'Malley
Adam Price
Luann Brosius & Becky Riddle
Ted Lindgren II
Beverly Barkley
Adam Price
Heidi Beahm & Brian Johns

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

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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