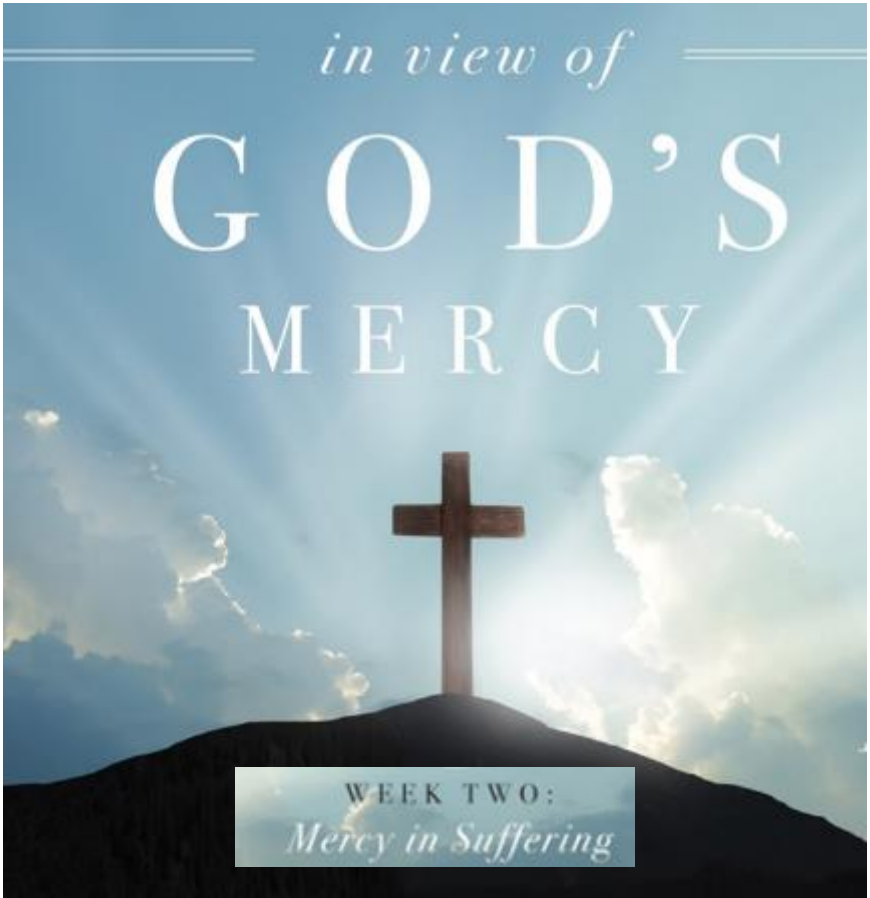


Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*Night Prayer with Communion*  
*March 20, 2025*  
*7 pm Lent Worship Service*  
*Pastor Brandon Johns*

## RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Sermon and some liturgy portions by David Peter. © 2022 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414.

[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). Communion liturgy adapted from Sundays and Seasons.com.

Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24133. All rights reserved.

*By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24*

## PRELUDE

### OPENING DIALOGUE *(based on Psalm 22)*

Almighty God, Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Be not far from me, for trouble is near.**

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**Be not far from me, for trouble is near.**

O my God, I cry by day and by night, but I find no rest.

**Be not far from me, for trouble is near.**

Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog.

**O you my help, come quickly to my aid.**

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen.

**O you my help, come quickly to my aid.**

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him.

**O you my help, come quickly to my aid.**

For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him.

**But God has heard when we cried to him. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN: Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv-ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe.  
2 You have suf-fered great af-flic-tion and have borne it pa-tient-ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor-rows deep and sore,



Christ, your-self for me once giv-ing to the dark-est depths of woe;  
e-ven death by cru-ci-fix-ion, ful-ly to a-tone for me;  
for the an-guish in the gar-den, I will thank you ev-er-more;



through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer-it life e-ter-nal I in-her-it.  
for you chose to be tor-ment-ed that my doom should be pre-vent-ed.  
thank you for the groan-ing, sigh-ing, for the bleed-ing and the dy-ing,



Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear-est Je-sus, un-to you.  
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear-est Je-sus, un-to you.  
for that last tri-um-phant cry, praise you ev-er-more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Hentzschel, 1605–1681; n. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: JESU, MELINES LEBENS LEHEN, *Das grosse Catechismal*, Darmstadt, 1687

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Numbers 21:7)

“The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord.’ ” We likewise confess to God that we have often spoken against him and have sinned.

**Holy God, we confess our sin to you. When adversity and suffering have come our way, we have complained and spoken against you. We have forgotten your many benefits and blessings to us. We have not trusted you through the hard times, but have resented you and resorted to our own strength. Forgive our iniquity, and pardon our sin.**

We cry to you for mercy!

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)*

Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "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" (John 3:14-15). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and gives you eternal life. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage we do so in view of your mercy. We encounter many hardships and much suffering in life. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we may trust you through the trials and take up the cross to follow you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **1 Peter 2:9-10; 21-25**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

## Matthew 8:14-17

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

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

## REFLECTION HYMN: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - reign die?  
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,  
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

## REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who struggle with hardships and suffer with pain.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we experience broken relationships and the suffering that these bring—such as estrangement of family members, alienation from friends and conflict within congregations—restore us with your healing power so that we might seek reconciliation and peace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we experience broken bodies and the suffering that it brings—such as illness, injury and disability—restore us with your healing power so that we might live in health once again.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we experience broken minds and the suffering that it brings—such as with mental illness, neurosis and dementia—restore us with your healing power so that we might know of your love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we experience broken spirits and the suffering that it brings—such as depression, despair and desperation—restore us with your healing power so that we might have hope.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we encounter the brokenness of this world and the suffering that it brings, restore us with your healing power so that we might rest secure in you as our mighty fortress.

**Lord, grant me your grace to trust you in times of suffering.**

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus the Suffering Servant.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and fill your lives.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFTS OF GOD**

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 thanksgiving continues led by Pastor and concludes with:*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **TABLE GRACE**

Let us pray. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:  
**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**

Let us taste together the goodness of the mercy of God.

### **COMMUNION**

#### **BLESSING**

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

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

## BENEDICTION

May the merciful God, who suffered the pain of the cross for you and your salvation, strengthen you to trust him through hardship according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weigh'd down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

## DISMISSAL

Forgiven in the mercy of God, go in the peace won for you through Christ and the cross. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

