

Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

The Lenten Cross Garden grows each week. Its stark beauty prepares for the extravagant beauty of the Resurrection Garden on Easter Morning.

LINEN *"They took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths."*

-John 19:40

Linen, in its finest form, was a symbol of purity, so it was used in service of worshipping God, from priestly garments to adorning worship spaces. In death, Jesus, our great High Priest, is wrapped in linen, but leaves it behind in order to offer us new life with a robe of righteousness. For this, we gladly worship Him.

We pause to reflect as the linen is added to the cross garden.

GATHERING: The WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE: The Way of Service

(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 way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek
Your follower must be.***

Jesus came not to be served but to serve
and give his life as ransom for many.

His ultimate act of service was his death on the cross for us.
By his wounds we were healed.

***You are the way; you serve those lost
in sin and guilt and greed.
You made a way at your great cost
that we from death are freed.***

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe,
and had reclined again, he said to them,
“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

For I have set you an example,
that you also should do as I have done to you.

Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me,
and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”
**Let us love and serve the Lord by loving
and serving one another in his name.**

***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 compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM *That Old Rugged Cross* D. Besig & N. Price

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

PSALM 32 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

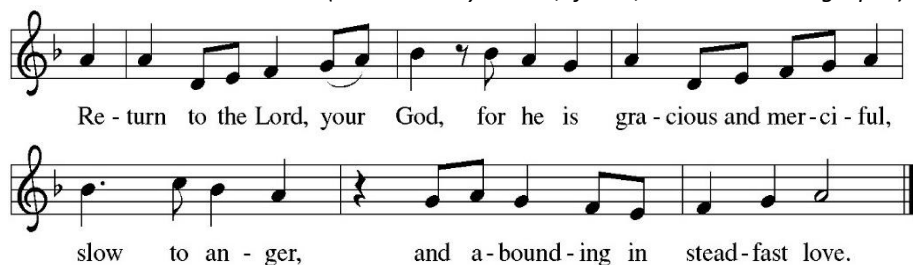
¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent

everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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

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

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.

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



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 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.

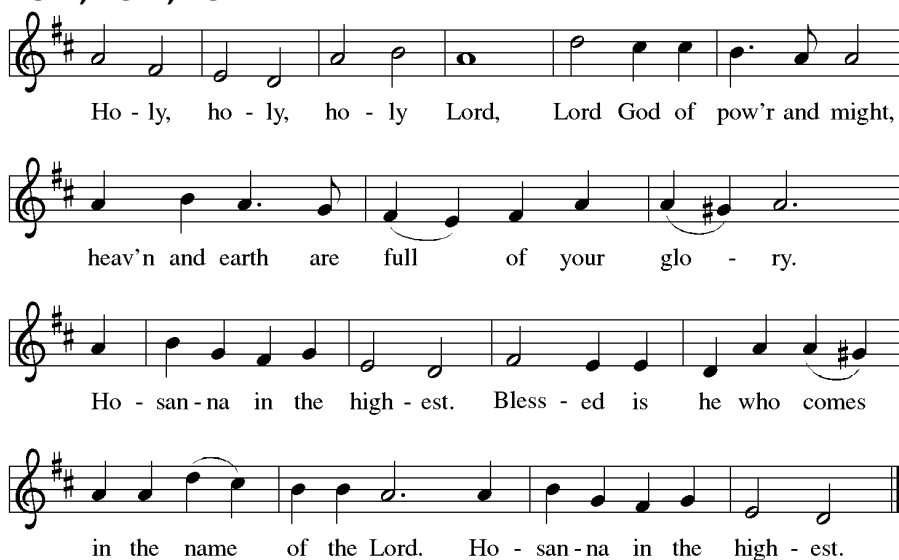
We lift them to the Lord.

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*)

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: Restore In Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays


DISMISSAL

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


POSTLUDE

Praise, O Christ, to Thee! Stanley P. Truselle

Today’s altar flowers are in celebration of the birth of our great-grandson Colt Ayres Mulbauer on March 3, by Tom and Cindy Ayres



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



Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	Gary Checkan
Pr. Tony Schneck	the Jason Family	Stephanie Hogan
Amy Grigorovich	Berty McMillen	Jerry McElhinny
Cliff & Liz Mashuda	Clark Graham	Dale Weisz
Dave & Patty Grubbs	Pastor Larry Mort	Ron Hartman

The families of Jane Brown, Melitta Garbuny, & Ruth Banyay Mirage

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.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Fri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. March 31	7:00 pm	Worship Meeting
Tues. April 1	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. April 2	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. April 3	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	6:00 pm	Meager Meal
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	8:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. April 4	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch

Food Drive – 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.

Easter Flowers – If you are interested in purchasing flowers this year, please have your orders in by April 6th. Forms say flowers are \$9.50, but we were able to get the price down to \$9 per flower. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Lent Special Offering – 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 devastating 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 are available, there is a collection jar by the bulletins at the front entrance to the nave, 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.

Easter Candy Fundraiser - See a camper to support them this summer



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
Anna Johns
Ted Lindgren III
Davin Beahm
Karen Ferrari & Eilene Budisky
James Thomas
Emily Taylor
Adam Price
Joe Ludwik & Dan Erin

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:

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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