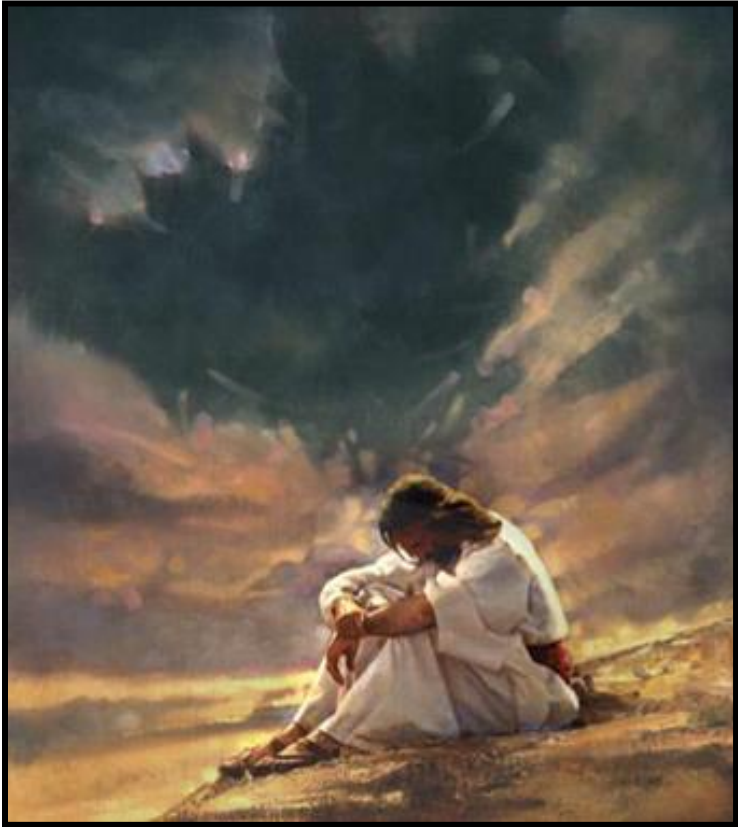


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 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.

WOOD *He went out, bearing his own cross. – John 19:17*

Wood has always been both a symbol of sacrifice and life, from fruit trees to altar fires to shepherd's staffs. In the cross, the focal point of our Lenten garden, the wood of sacrifice and of life become one. To it we add the shepherd's staff, for it is the Good Shepherd who leads us on this life-giving journey to the cross.

We pause to reflect as the Shepherd's staff is added to the cross garden.

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

(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.***

In a world of division, Jesus leads us on the path of love.

He tells us to turn the other cheek and to give more to others than is even asked.

Jesus showed more compassion than we deserve,
so we could walk in his way forgiven and loved.

***You are the way; the way of love
In your cross is revealed.
You look with kindness from above;
Through you, our sin is healed.***

Jesus said to his disciples,

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you should love one another."

We listen and obey and love along the way.

Love is patient; love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way.

It is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs.

It does not rejoice in wrong doing

but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Let all you do be done in love,

And let Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.

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. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

Walk with Me

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the

Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 (*Read Responsively*)

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

²**you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess
with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God
raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with
the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and
so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be
put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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

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



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 4, 1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led
by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted
by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they
were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the
Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus
answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

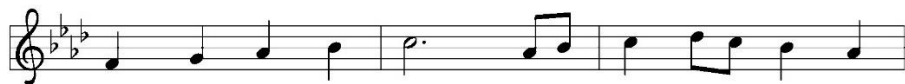
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

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.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.

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 processionaly, 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: Bless Now, O God, the Journey *(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

Andante E. Maestoso

Stewart Landon

Today's altar flowers are presented by Vic, Brenda, Corey, Emersyn and Elliott in memory of Elisa Walker.



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



A rosebud has been placed on the altar in celebration of the birth of Emily Ann Bettencourt, born February 27th Parents, Michael & Staci Bettencourt Grandparents, Rob & Lisa Burr Great-grandmother, Kay Burr



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.

SENDING HYMN: Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Troy Barkley	Luke Clawson
Roberta Domhoff	Lisa Burr	Gary Checkan
Pastor Tony Schneck	the Jason Family	Kim Fields
David & Betty Wobb	Carmen Morra	Kay Burr
Amy Grigorovich	Tyanna Rausch	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

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

The families of June English, Virginia Frazier Roberts,
Jeff MacKay & Melitta Garbuny



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (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

Volunteer

Glenn Fulghum

Wes Schmidt

Barb Graham & Donna Daugherty

Robin Van Dyke

Pat Capella

Heidi Beahm

Adam Price & Rob Burr

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

Meager Meals – 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.

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 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.

Sewers – Tuesday, March 11th sewers will meet at 10:00am to make Adult Bibs/Clothing Protectors.

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.

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 log 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.

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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