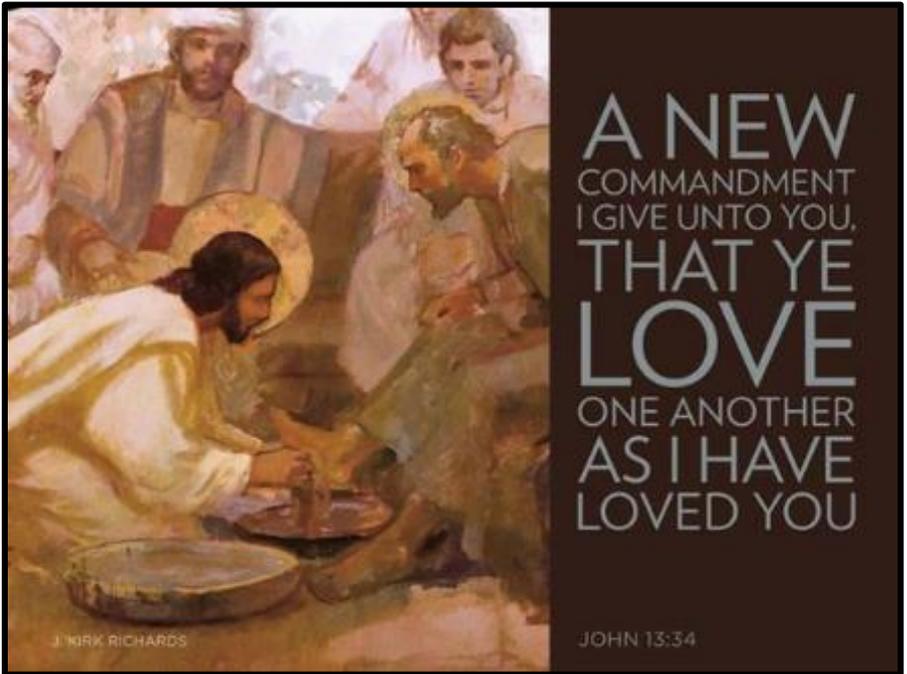


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Maundy Thursday

*April 17, 2025
7 pm Worship Service*

Pastor Brandon Johns

The Lenten Cross Garden has grown as a different symbol of Christ has been added at the foot of the cross. Its stark beauty prepares us for the extravagant beauty of the Resurrection Garden on Easter Morning.

STONE *"[Joseph] rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb."*

Matthew 27:60

Stone has long held value as both the tools and material for building homes. It was also used for putting prophets to death and entombing the dead. Neither stone nor death itself can confine Jesus, who instead makes a rolled away stone a symbol of hope in an eternal home and becomes the cornerstone of our faith.

PRELUDE

Gethsemane

John M. Rasley

CALL TO WORSHIP: Exodus 12:1-4,7-8,11-14

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

GATHERING PSALMODY: Psalm 116:12-19

What can I offer the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will bring a drink offering to the Lord to thank him for saving me.

In the meeting of all his people, I will give him what I have promised.

How painful it is to the Lord, when one of his people dies!

I am your servant, Lord; I serve you, just as my mother did.

You have set me free.

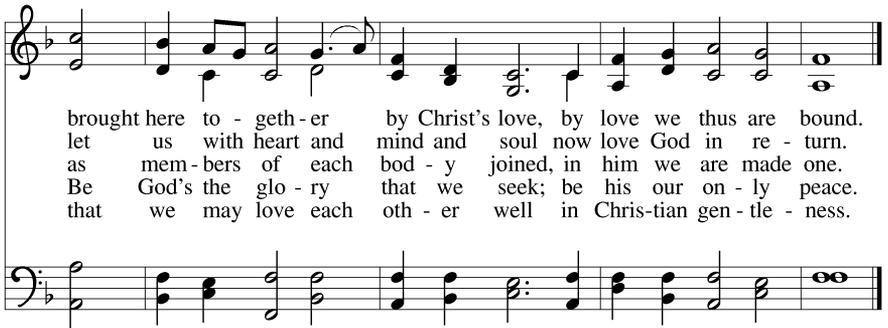
I will give you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and offer my prayer to you.

In the meeting of all your people, in the courts of your temple, in Jerusalem, I will give you what I have promised. Praise the Lord!

GATHERING HYMN: Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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GOSPEL READING: Luke 22:14-27

The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

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

SERMON



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of forgiving sin, granting the peace of reconciliation, and giving new life. In the words of absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God's own self. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another. *(a brief silence for individual prayer)*

We pray: **Almighty God, merciful Father:**

**I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you
all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you
and for which I justly deserve your punishment.**

**But I am sorry for them, and repent of them,
and pray for your boundless mercy.**

**For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,
be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being;**

**forgive my sins,
give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life,
and bring me to life everlasting. Amen**

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The assembly is seated. People may come forward and kneel or stand to feel anew cleansing waters in remembrance of their baptism and hear personally words of forgiveness as a balm for a troubled soul. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet that first Maundy Thursday, may you feel his cleansing love made known in this water and words of mercy should you feel moved to receive them. Pastor, laying a hand and gently pouring water on each person's head, addresses each in turn, saying, "By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God renew you and keep you in eternal life."

During this time, the following hymn is sung:

HYMN FOR MERCY: Have Mercy on Us, Lord

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

After the hymn is sung or all people have come forward and returned to their seats, whichever takes longer, the service continues:

PEACE

We are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Lord. Therefore, let us be reconciled with one another and share the peace of the Lord. (please remain standing for the Prayer of the Day)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CREED (1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 22:13; John 20:28)

Let us confess what we believe.

**This is the good news, which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:**

**That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;
that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day;
that he appeared to the disciples and to many faithful witnesses.**

We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

OFFERING SONG: God Gave to Me a Life to Live



1 God gave to me a life to live; God
2 When I am helped to see what's good, and



gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with
led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing



which to care; God gave me love that I might share.
God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What can we offer to our Lord, who welcomes us as honored guests at the table and serves us with love and compassion? How will we respond to the God who thus affirms our worth and calls us to discipleship? Everything we are and possess is ours by God's grace. How we use it is the measure of our faith. Let us express our thankfulness.

We celebrate the love we only dimly comprehend—your love for us, O God, in Jesus Christ. We have vowed to serve you, to minister to one another in Christ's name, and to share the love we have received. As we meet you at the table, we consecrate our offering and rededicate ourselves to the service of your people, the works of compassion and humble service. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right and good to thank him.

We give thanks to you, Father, at all times, and in all places; here and everywhere; now and always. We praise you because you sent your Son, and in him being found in fashion as a man, you make known to us the fullness of your glory.

Therefore with the whole Church we bow before you and say:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord of power, mighty God!

Everything everywhere is filled with your presence.

Your splendor fills all time and space now and ever more.

Your favor is on him who comes in your name.

On the night of his great trial, Jesus took bread and gave thanks.

Blessed are you, Father;

from the earth you give bread to your people.

Breaking the bread, he shared it with his friends, saying:

“Take eat, this is my body given for you, do this remembering me.”

We remember your coming into the world, your life, your death, your rising, and the promise of your coming again.

Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and upon this bread.

Fill and surround us with your presence.

Broken and divided, in him we are united.

Jesus Christ, our peace and our reconciliation!

Our Father in heaven:

Your name be honored.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us each day our daily bread! Amen.

Most will serve the best wine first,

but the Lord saves the best for last!

We thank you, Father, for the true vine and this fruit of the vine.

The vine of the root of David was cut down
and trampled outside the city wall.

And the fruit of the vine was the blood of our Lord.

Jesus took the cup after supper and gave thanks to his Father.

**Blessed are you, Father,
you have made from the earth the fruit of the vine.**

He shared it with his friends, saying:

“Drink from it, all of you, this is the new covenant in my blood
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin.”

Our Father in Heaven:

**Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil! Amen.**

Eat from this bread we have broken. Share in what our Lord has
done for us with his body. Drink from the cup of blessing.

Share his death and his life. He is coming soon!

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one
another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.
It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ’s
body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our
Lord’s last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the
cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord’s gift of himself and
participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The
Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all
the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our
reconciliation with God and each other. Come to the Lord’s Table.

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 OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together in thanksgiving.

Lord Jesus, we feel your presence within our hearts. We are thankful for the sacrament of which we have eaten and drunk to remember your death and taste your living presence. We thank you for all the earthly signs of your word, the hymns which we have sung, the fellowship which has encouraged us, and the inner peace which you have granted us. Continue to strengthen us in our commitment of service and love. We cannot do everything, but what we can do, by your grace, we will do. Amen.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *Within the Shadow of the Cross*

Don Besig and Nancy Price

COMMAND TO LOVE: John 13:12-17; 34-35

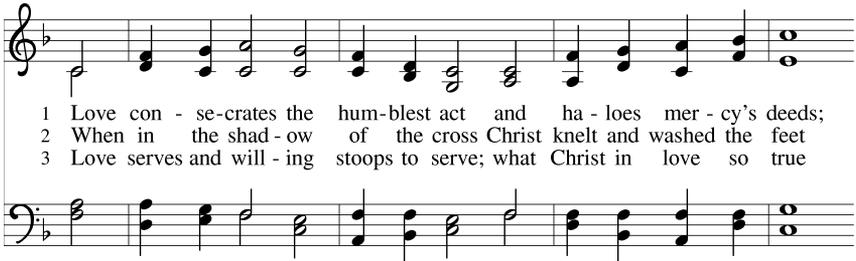
¹²After [Jesus] had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

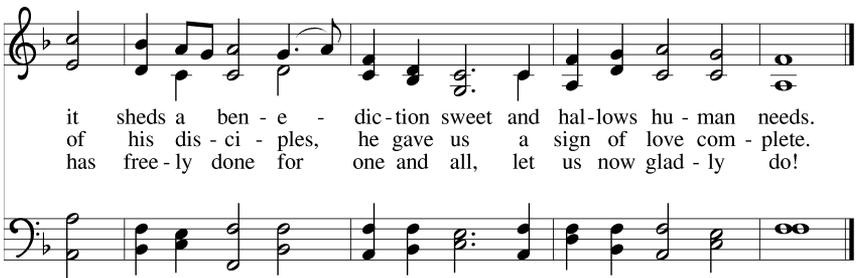
³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

COMMISSIONING HYMN: Love Consecrates the Humblest Act



1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;
2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet
3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true



it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
of his dis - ci - ples, he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

COMMISSIONING OF DISCIPLES

Let us pray. O God the King of Righteousness, lead us, we pray, in the ways of justice and of peace; inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for everyone their due reward and from everyone their due service; that each may live for all, and all for each, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Where charity and love are,
there is God.

The love of Christ joined us in one.

Let us rejoice and be glad in him.

Let us fear and love the living God,

and love one another in sincerity of heart.

REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS' BETRAYAL AND ARREST

Psalm 22 is read as the altar is stripped.

We depart in silence, anticipating Good Friday.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Anna Johns
Assistant Minister	Anna Plank
Greeters	Volunteer
Lector	Becky Rengers
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Dan & Casy Guerriero

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

April 18: Good Friday

Noon – Community Cross Walk & Service (*Crestview in Gallery this year*)

7 pm – Service at St. Peter's

8 pm – Begin Keeping the Word Alive Vigil

April 19: Holy Saturday

All Day – Vigil Continues

11 am – Worship and Fellowship Setup

April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday

Midnight – 7 am – Vigil continues and concludes

7 am – Sunrise Service

8 am – Easter Breakfast

9 am – Sunday School (with egg hunt)

10:15 am – Festal Easter Service

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.

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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