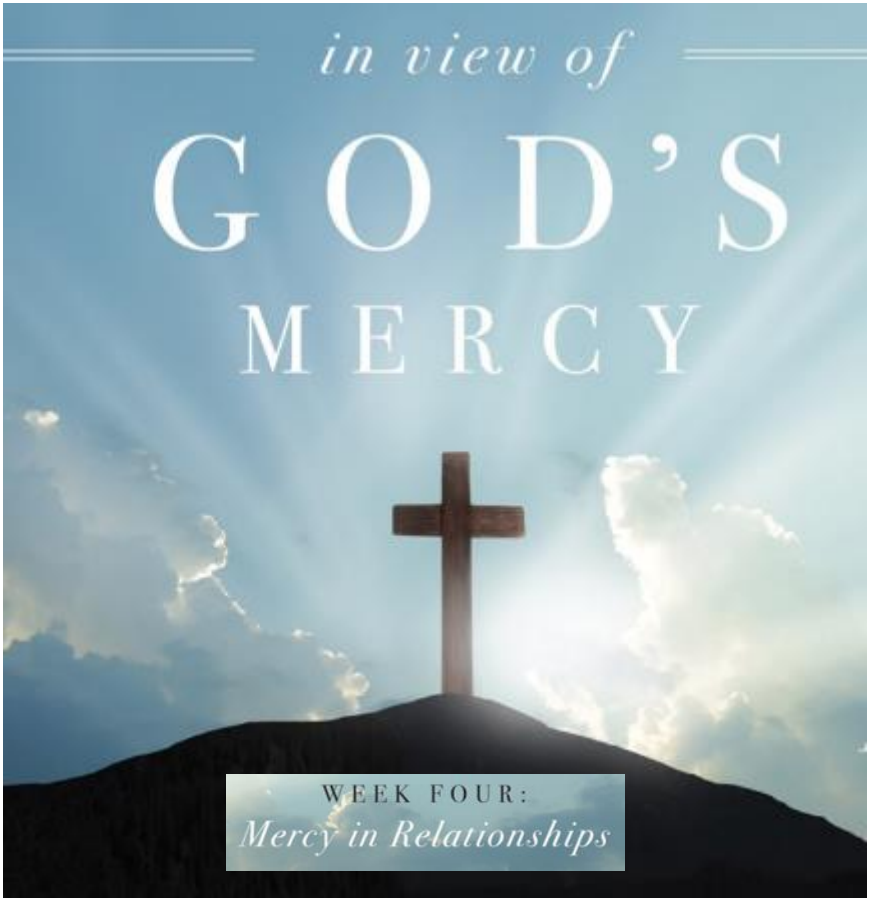


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Night Prayer with Communion
April 3, 2025
7 pm Lent Worship Service
Pastor Brandon Johns

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

PRELUDE

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak
the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

We are united in Christ.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is
good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to
those who hear.

We are united in Christ.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as
God in Christ forgave you.

We are united in Christ.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

We are united in Christ.

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron.

We are united in Christ.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

We are united in Christ.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Ephesians 4:31*)

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

We confess to God that we have often been bitter towards others, expressed sinful anger to them, clamored against them and have engaged in slander and malice. We have refused to forgive and have pursued revenge rather than reconciliation.

Holy God, we confess that we have not loved others as you have loved us. We have sinned against them, and in so doing we have sinned against you. We have not kept our tongues from evil but have slandered others. We have not sought peace but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.

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 "God in Christ forgave you." 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 sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight. 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. Although we have not loved one another as you command, you continue to show your mercy to us. In view of your mercy, transform us so that we view others as precious and love them as you have loved us. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that we might live graciously toward our neighbors. 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

Genesis 45:3-7,12-15

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

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

Ephesians 4:25-32

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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

REFLECTION HYMN: Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today with broken relationships.

Lord, have mercy.

When we have alienated ourselves from others due to falsehood, help us to speak the truth in love with our neighbor.

Lord, have mercy.

When we have alienated ourselves from others due to bitterness and anger, renew a right spirit within us to work toward peace.

Lord, have mercy.

When we have alienated ourselves from others due to a refusal to forgive, soften our hearts so that we may forgive as you have forgiven us.

Lord, have mercy.

We praise you that while we were yet sinners, you still loved us and sent Christ to die for us, reconciling us to you.

Lord, have mercy.

In view of your mercy, lead us by your Spirit so that we will build one another up by extending your grace to others.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who reconciled us to you. **Amen.**

PEACE

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and fill your lives. Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

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 is faithful to forgive the corruption of your sin, empower you to give constructive words to others and to forgive them as God has forgiven you, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants cease.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

