

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

The Lenten Cross Garden grows 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.

WINE *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished".
– John 19:30*

Feasts and festivities have been marked by the sharing of wine for millennia. On the cross, Jesus was offered vinegar wine as an insult to mock his suffering. As God's suffering servant, Jesus bore every insult and pain that human sin could produce and in return, offered his own lifeblood so all could share in the feast without end.

We pause to reflect as the wine and grapes are added to the cross garden.

GATHERING: The WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE: The Truth of God

(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 truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.***

Jesus came to tell the truth of God to the people of God.

So we listen to the Lord.

Jesus said, "Very truly, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

So we confidently come to God in prayer.

***You are the truth; the truth you give
Comes only from our God.
For only by God's will we live
To tell your news abroad.***

Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

We eagerly await the true life that we will have in heaven.

Jesus said, "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me."

We feed on the words of truth from our God coming from our Savior's mouth.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Jesus is the true food and the true drink that nourishes our souls for all eternity.

***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. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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 *Make My Heart Your Home*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

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

PSALM 126 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**
³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
⁵ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

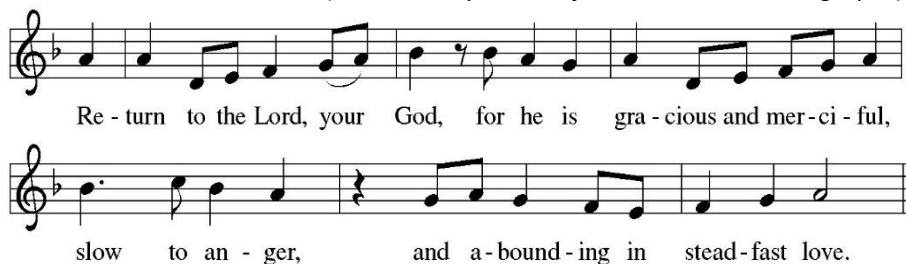
[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus

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: John 12:1-8

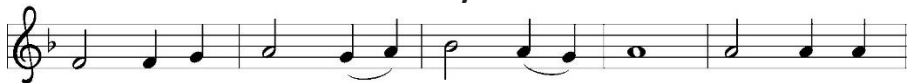
The holy gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

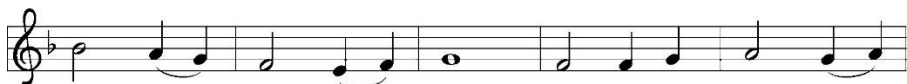
¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." *This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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: Day by Day *(please see on the next page)*

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Recessional

M. Isabelle Ritter

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bob Domhoff by Marlene Domhoff



Today's eternal candle is in memory of Ruth & Claire Hoffman, Ed smith, and in honor of the birthdays of John Hoffman, Steve Brittner & my granddaughter, Chelsea Barron, by Teresa O'Malley



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
Dominick Scarpino	Kay Marburger Terry	Garrie Wearing
	The family of Jane Brown	

SENDING HYMN: Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005

Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for April

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support EDCO Park.
If you would like to support this cause, please mark the
Other line on your contribution envelope EDCO Park.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Fri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. April 7	6:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting
Tues. April 8	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wed. April 9	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. April 10	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	6:00 pm	Meager Meal
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	8:00 pm	Bible Study
Sat. April 12	1:00 pm	First Communion Class

Food Drive – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting Hamburger Helper in April. 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 **today**. Flowers are \$9.

Lent Special Offering – Our offerings made during Meager Meals and in the Lent Special Offering envelopes will go to Lutheran Disaster Response's aid to people impacted by the wildfires in California.

Fasting for Change – The jar for collecting Fasting for Change funds is on the wood table at the front entrance to the nave. They support Lutheran Service Society this year. 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. You are also welcome to mark the Other line on your contribution envelope.

Clothing Cupboard – The women of the church are hoping to reopen the Clothing Cupboard. We are in need of volunteers the first and third Fridays in the morning. Please see Colleen Prenovitz. We are not accepting clothing at this time. Thank you.

Keeping the Word Alive Vigil – Starting after the 7 pm Good Friday Service, St. Peter’s family and friends will work as a team to keep a vigil until the sunrise service on Easter morning. This is a unique opportunity to deepen our spiritual connection to Christ, the Living Word, in connection with the time he spent in the tomb. The vigil will include reading the Gospel of Luke as well as other devotional materials. Please sign up for one or more slots!

Looking Ahead... Holy Week/Easter

- April 13** Palm Sunday & First Holy Communion
- April 16** Silent Communion Service 6:45 pm
- April 17** Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
- April 18** Good Friday: Community Cross Walk—noon
(Starting and concluding at Crestview Church in Callery)
Worship Service 7 pm; SPY/Jr. SPY 8 pm - 1 am
- April 18-20** Keeping the Word Alive Vigil
- April 20** Sunrise Service 7 am; Easter Breakfast 8 am;
Sun. School & Egg Hunt 9 am; Festal Worship 10:15 am



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)	The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod)	The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Carter Johns
Assisting Minister	Karen Ferrari
Bell Ringer	Corey Walker
Greeters	Volunteers
Lector	Melissa Bonicky
Nursery	Marge Lindgren
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Adam Price & Rob Burr

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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