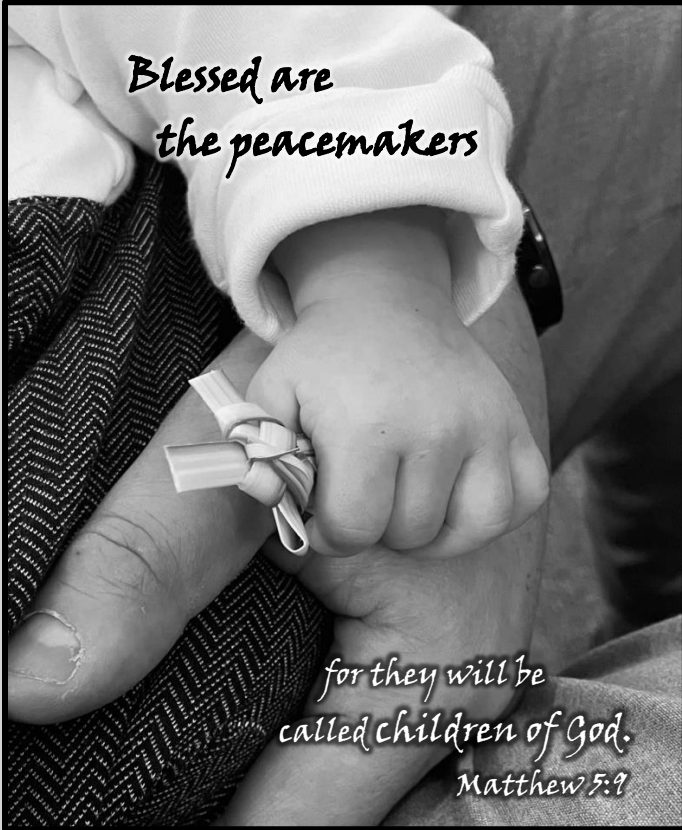


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

10:15 am Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

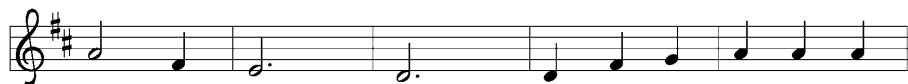
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

Precious Jesus

Jay Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

PSALM 15 (*Read Responsively*)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue,
they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health
and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human

wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

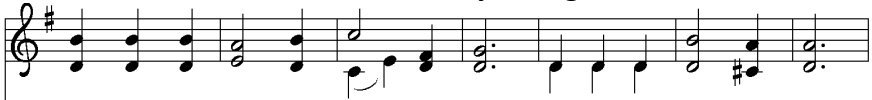
10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and
be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call,
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: “Come, share my home a - bove.”



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries.

The response for each petition is:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **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



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

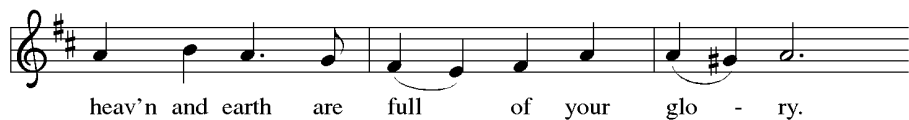
We lift them to the Lord.

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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

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.

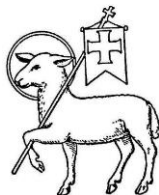
Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread
and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand
before you and to serve you as your priestly people.
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.



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.

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

Let us pray. Radiant God with our eyes we have seen your salvation and, in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 SONG: We Are Called



- 1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Benton Price

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February: Sherri Ifft

If you would like to support this cause, please mark the "Other" line on your contribution envelope Sherri Ifft.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	Mary Fulghum
Stephanie Hogan	Berty McMillen	Rick Reifenstein
Pat Wolfe	Roland Wise	Julie W & Tim Barron
Kerren Morra	Audray Muscatello Yost	

Today's Altar Flowers are giving by The Jason Family in loving memory of Ruth Rasp. Her birthday was Feb. 20th.



Today's Eternal Candle is presented by Jane Taylor in memory of her dad, Kenneth Clawson. His birthday was Feb. 13th.

Congregational Meeting – Please plan to stay after worship today for lunch and our annual Bulletin of Reports meeting, which this year includes voting on a proposal to renovate our downstairs bathrooms.

Featured Food Cupboard Donations – The featured item for our congregation in February is Cereal.

Looking Ahead – The **talent show** that is part of our Shrove Tuesday festivities is only a month away. Get your “act” together now! Start practicing your family friendly jokes too. The annual pancake and sausage dinner on February 17th begins at 5:30 pm. We will close with the Burning of the Palms Service. Please sign up to perform during our “talent” show so we know how to plan for the evening.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Fri.	4:00 – 6:00 pm	After School
Mon. Feb. 2	6:30 pm	Fellowship
Tue. Feb. 3	7:00 p m	Property
Wed. Feb. 4	10:00 am	Community Quilters
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur. Feb. 5	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Feb. 6	12:00 pm	500 Club



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
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Alyssa Mossor
Asst. Minister	Robin VanDyke
Bell Ringer	Jason Plank
Greeters	Denny & Inez Schmidt
Lector	Teresa O'Malley
Ushers	Dean Zinkhann & Joe Ludwik
Nursery	Cheryl Thomas
Tech Support	Adam Price

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. **New to St. Peter's?** You are welcome to **commune** with us if that is your practice. 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).

Alternative Electronic Giving Method - In addition to our regular forms of giving, including Tithely, we now have the option of receiving monetary gifts and offerings through Venmo. If you choose to use Venmo, please note how you would like the funds to be designated, like for Current Fund or Poinsettias. If not, Venmo funds will be treated like undesignated cash offerings, which, at this time, means 90% goes to the Current Fund and 10% to Synod Benevolence.



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