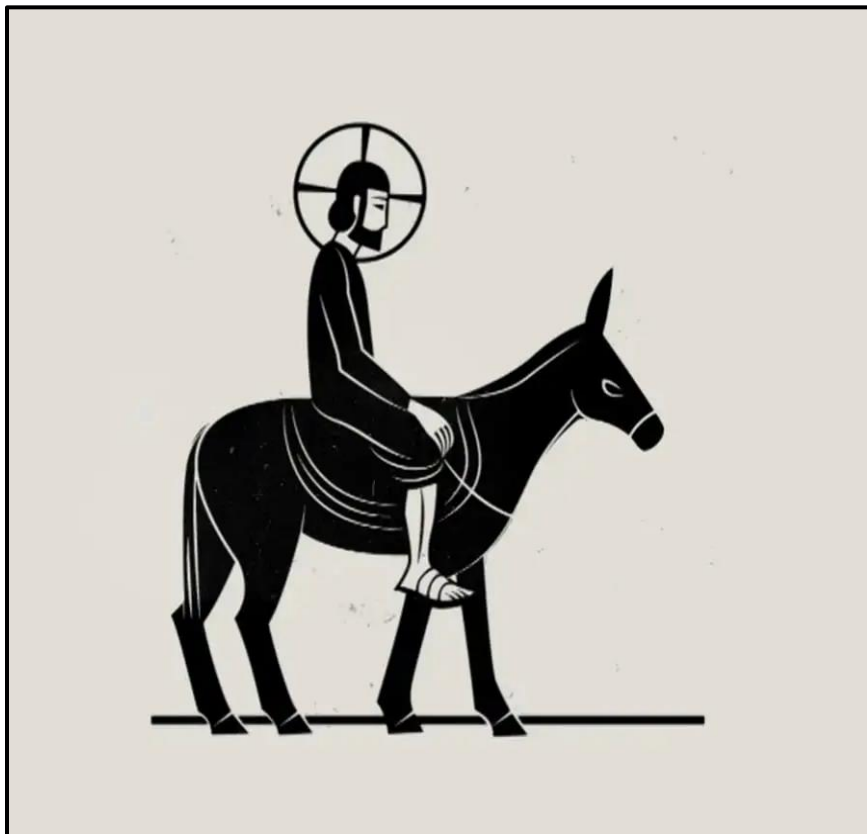


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Palm and Passion Sunday

*March 29, 2026
10:15 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.

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE *Ring, Glory, Laud and Honor* Lloyd Larson

BELL RINGING

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

All are invited to join the procession of welcome to the Messiah, the one whom we praise with joy for our deliverance. This is what our Hosanna means, before our shouts turn to crucifixion when we realize our salvation happens on God’s terms instead of our own.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *Hosanna!* Don Besig and Nancy Price

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me, the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM 31:9-16 (Read Responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

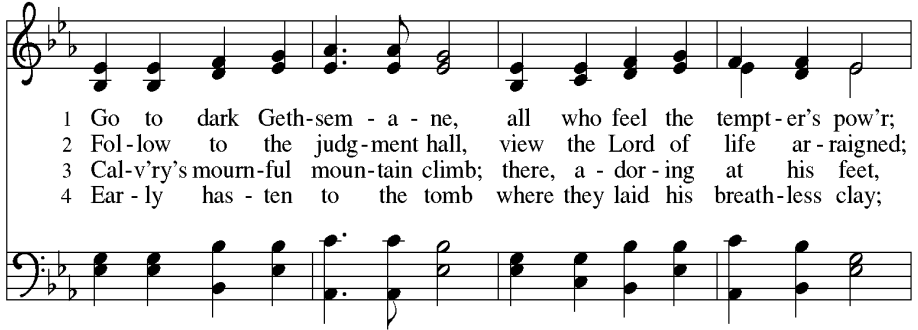
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

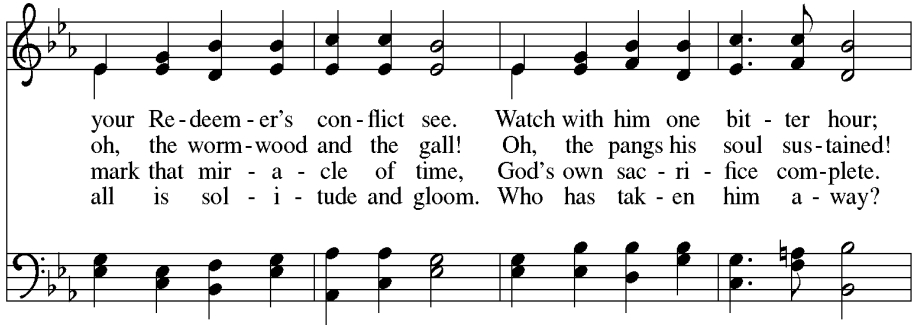
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD READING ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Please turn to the Passion reading booklets that have been included in your bulletin. You are invited to read aloud the bold-type parts.

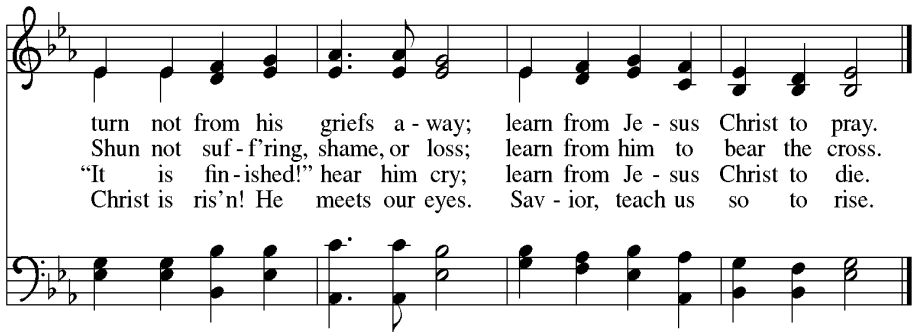
HYMN OF THE DAY: Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus.

The response for each petition is:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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 front and rear of 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 know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

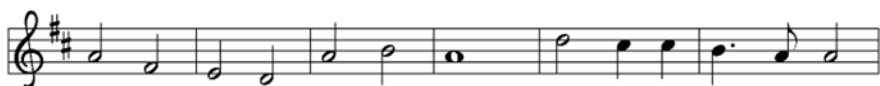
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

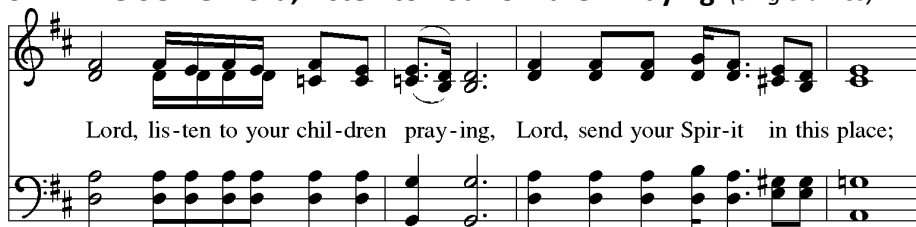
BENEDICTION

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: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying *(sing 3 times)*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live that others might praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

With Palms Before Him

Chester Nordman

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	Mary Fulghum
Stephanie Hogan	Berty McMillen	Rick Reifenstein
Donna Daugherty	Annastyn Hogan	Garrie Wearing
Arlene Cameron	Judith Brown	Ricky Benson
Tammi Rossi	Alma Kincaid	Lori Burns
Michelle Follet & Family	The family of Pat Sammons	

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by Bev & Neal Critchlow
in loving memory of
Bea King's birthday, April 1st.*



*Today's Eternal Candle is
presented by Teresa O'Malley
in loving memory of
Jerome O'Malley*

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March: Camp Lutherlyn

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

Featured Food Cupboard Donations – March is condiments.

Seder Meal – Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30pm. Please sign up in Luther Hall if you are able to attend. This will help those preparing for the meal. All are welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations – There is a box in Luther Hall for donations for St. Peter's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning. We are seeking small prizes and allergy safe candy (individual serving size): smarties, starburst, skittles, Swedish fish, nerds, and any other things you can think of. PLEASE have all donations to the church by this Friday, April 3rd.



College Care Kits – WELCA will be putting together boxes of snacks to send to our college students to help get them through exam time and let them know that their church family is thinking of and praying for them. If you would like to donate food items to put in the boxes, please see Christine Johns.

Fasting for Change – 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. Coin boxes are available or you are welcome to mark the Other line on your contribution envelope. Remember as Easter comes to return your boxes. There is a glass vase on the main bulletin table to be used for our fasting donations and coin boxes.

Keeping the Word Alive Reading & Prayer Vigil (April 3-5)

For about thirty-six hours, we will read continually through this year's lectionary gospel, Matthew, broken only by readers taking time for prayer or using other provided devotional material to reflect on the magnitude of Jesus' sacrificial love for us. Our thirty-six hour vigil represents the time Christ lay dead in the tomb, but giving audible voice to God's Word reminds us that death is not the victor in this battle. Also this time of incarnating the Word teaches us that we not only play a part in Jesus' death but in the on-going life of his Body. The sign up is available on the table with the red table cloth.

Please consider this opportunity to live into Jesus' request of the disciples at Gethsemane to remain with him and stay awake with him (Mt 26:38), and if you have any questions please talk to Pastor or the Worship Committee.

Although reading from the sanctuary offers some of the deepest spiritual benefits, we will again offer the opportunity to read from home through Zoom. Please indicate which method that you will use, which helps keeps the flow of readers more smooth as each reader knows how to expect to greet their replacement.



Pirates Game Fellowship Outing – Come join us at the Pirates game, May 30th. All tickets must be reserved by April 12th. There is a sign up on the table with the red table cloth. Ride sharing is available.

Softball – If you are interested in playing on the St. Peter’s softball team this season, please talk to Pastor Johns, who is the coach of our team. Games are held during the week at Slippery Rock or at the Middle Lancaster Field from May through the beginning of August, with spring training held in April. Everyone is welcome to participate or to be part of the best cheer squad in the league. Thank you to our family/friends at Waiting on You Hand and Foot for sponsoring us!

Vacation Bible School – is hosted by St. Peter’s this year on June 15-19 from 9am to noon. Please register your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and even invite strangers, to be a part of this week of adventures. Speak with Heidi Beahm or Pastor Johns if you are interested in volunteering for VBS this year.



Kid Camp – will be offered again this year for 2 weeks! Full Day 7:30am – 5:30pm, June 8-12 and June 15-19. Please see Heidi for more information.

After School Program – Even though the school year will be winding down soon, it’s actually a great time to talk to friends and neighbors about our After School Program, so that when parents are ready to plan child care for next year, they know about the wonderful environment St. Peter’s provides for children needing after school care. We also want to let you know that the After School Program did receive the grant from the Ethel Verney Foundation which is administered by our synod to provide a paved outdoor space for play. With that support we will be moving forward soon to have that work completed on our current upper gravel lot.

Special Presentation – Our own Pr. Larry Mort will be presenting “A Tour of the Holy Land” on Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 pm at the Evans City Library. Come learn more about the place our Lord walked as we walk with Jesus to the cross this Holy Week.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ELCA Presiding Bishop	The Rev. Yehiel Curry
SWPA Synod Bishop	The Rev. Melissa Stohler
Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Luke Zoelle
Asst. Minister	Teresa O'Malley
Bell Ringer	Wes Schmidt
Greeters	Barb Graham & Adam Price
Lector	Patti Flach
Ushers	Rob Burr & Heidi Beahm
Nursery	Beverly Barkley
Tech Support	Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Tues. March 31	7:00 pm	Finance Meeting
Wed. April 1	10:00 am	Community Quilters
	6:30-8:00 pm	Silent Service
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur. April 2	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	6:30 pm	Seder Meal
Fri. April 3	12:00 pm	Community Crosswalk
	7:00 pm	St. Peter's Service
	8:00 pm	Vigil Begins
Sat. April 4	8:00-1:00 pm	SPY
	All Day	Keeping the Word Alive Vigil
	10:30 am	Worship Setup
Sun. April 5	11:00 am	Easter Breakfast Setup
	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	8:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:00 am	Sunday School & Egg Hunt
	10:15 am	Festal Worship

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. 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).

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.

Offering – Thank you for supporting our ministries! Plates are available at the front and rear of the nave to receive offering, or you if you prefer, we have Venmo as an option. If you choose to use Venmo, please note how you would like the funds to be designated, like for Current Fund, etc.



Staying in Touch:

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon.

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

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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