

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Festal Easter Service

April 5, 2026

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

WELCOME AND COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Welcome to worship this Easter morning! Having journeyed with Christ to the cross, now we encounter his empty tomb. The baptismal promise of a resurrection life like Jesus' after having joined him likewise in death takes sharper focus in light of this journey to the cross and empty tomb. Each Sunday, we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' incarnation and resurrection, but on this day of all days, our praises soar to new heights as Jesus' victory over death comes more sharply into focus. Here, also, in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord who has been resurrected unto everlasting life. If you are new to this gathering of disciples, please commune with us believing that Jesus is truly present for all of us who gather in his name, and especially when we share in this holy meal together. We will come forward by the center aisle, commune processionaly, at the stations that correspond to the side where you are sitting, and return to seats by side aisles. Those in Luther Hall will commune next, followed by the choir. We have gluten free wafers for those who need them. If you or your child do not normally receive Holy Communion, you are still welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, offered by Pastor. Please also let an usher or Pastor know if you are unable to come forward and would like the elements brought to you.

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

Easter Joy

John A. Behnke

BELL RINGING



RESURRECTION GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!



Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

GATHERING LITANY

Day has dawned and shadows are left behind.
The stone is rolled away and hope is reborn.

**This is the day that our God has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

God opens to us the gates of righteousness.
We enter to give thanks to our God.

**We give thanks, for our God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Set your mind on things that are above.
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Look up and welcome Christ's appearing.

**We have been raised with Christ.
Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day.**

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

Let us greet one another in peace with the strong name of
the Living Christ. *(Peace is passed at this time. Please remain
standing after peace is shared.)*



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. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

He Is Risen

Nancy Price & Don Besig

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!



PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 (*Read Responsively*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the
righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yaw - ning gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenium*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you.

The response for each petition is:

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the front and rear of the nave.

OFFERING SONG: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

(chord is played then all sing)



Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal
Ea - ster tri - umph Ea - ster joy! This a -



sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bo - dy for the feast -
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love
lone can sin des - troy; from sin's pow'r Lord set us free,

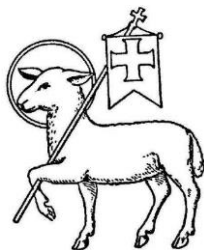


Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
new - born souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

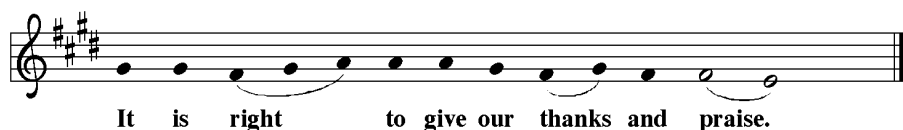
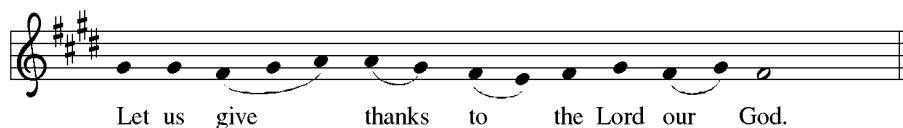
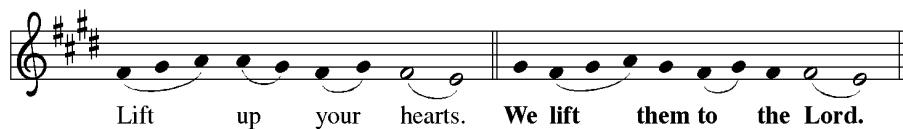
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. *(silence)*

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

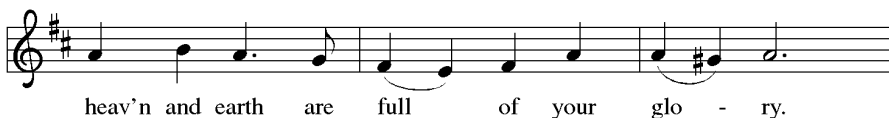


DIALOGUE



THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right... join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way,
at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.

Hallelujah!

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. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world with joy in Jesus’ name. **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: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! *(on the next page)*

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Triumphantly Risen

Lani Smith

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Cole Barkley | Luke Clawson | Mary Fulghum |
| Berty McMillen | Rick Reifenstein | Stephanie Hogan |
| Donna Daugherty | Amy Grigorovich | Garrie Wearing |
| Anastyn Hogan | Arlene Cameron | Judith Brown |
| Ricky Benson | Tammi Rossi | Alma Kincaid |
| Lori Burns | The families of Pat Sammons and Ray Snider | |

*Today’s Altar Flowers
are given in loving memory
of my mother, Edith Sarver
by Karen Ferrari*



*Today’s Eternal Candle
is presented by Teresa O’Malley
in memory of Ruth & Clair Hoffman
and Ed Smith.
Happy Birthday to Chelsea, Steve,
Uncle John, Barb, & Joan.*



SENDING SONG: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the worship spaces beautiful with Easter flowers! *(For a full list of sponsors, please see the enclosed insert.)*



Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for April: EDCO Park

If you would like to support this cause, please mark the “Other” line on your contribution envelope EDCO.

Featured April Food Cupboard Donation – Hamburger Helper Meals

Thank You – a special thank you to everyone who donated items to make the Easter Egg hunt a wonderful experience for our youth. Many thanks to SPY for filling the eggs for the kids as well. Thank you also to everyone who volunteered to Keep the Word Alive through the Easter vigil.

WELCA Spring Cluster Gathering – Saturday, April 11, *Forgiving and Forgiven* at New Hope Lutheran, Freedom PA. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in Luther Hall or contact Teresa O’Malley.

Mother-Daughter Banquet – Save the Date: Monday, April 27th

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.

Rummage Sale – is set for May 1-2. Limited space for storing donations is available upstairs, which can be arranged with Pastor. However, most donations, especially large items will need to wait until April 26, to keep the space nice for the wedding on 4/25. Large furniture items & electronics are acceptable as long as those who bring them are willing to take them back if they don’t sell.



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
Acolytes	Elsa & Myka Plank
Asst. Minister	Ted Lindgren II
Bell Ringer	Jason Plank
Greeters	Janice Hogan & Becky Rengers
Lector	Robin VanDyke
Ushers	Jenn & Dan Erin
Nursery	Cheryl Thomas
Tech Support	Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Tues. – Fri.	4:00 – 6:00 pm	After School
Mon. April 6	6:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting
Tues. April 7	10:00 am	Property Meeting
Wed. April 8	10:00 am	Community Quilters
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur. April 9	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. April 10	12:00 pm	500 Club

Thrivent Action Team Cards – Are you a member of Thrivent and would like to sponsor projects at St. Peter's with an action team card? If so, we have several summer activities on the horizon that could use your support. Please check the list on the bulletin board. If you need any help applying, either for your own project or identifying a project, please see Pastor or Christine Johns.

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.

Peters LCEC

@PetersLCEC



venmo

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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