

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Easter Sunrise

April 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

Welcome to worship this Easter morning. We gather here early amid hushed tones that are befitting the somberness of the men and women who were disciples of Jesus. To them, it had seemed as though death and darkness had won, and all that was left was to care for a lifeless body. As the first ray of light breaks at dawn, so the Word, kept alive during our vigil, pierces the darkness with promised hope. The confidence of that hope builds as the hues of sunrise give way to the certainty of the new day, which is reflected in our service as the Word continues to build into our litany, peace sharing, and faith affirmation. With the altar reappointed, carrying with it the elements in which we encounter the real presence of our Risen Lord, the sublime reality of Christ's resurrection dawns upon us, as it would his disciples, and we break forth in awe-filled, joyous songs of highest praise and thanksgiving for the one who bore the cross and overcame death, that we might live with him also. May this gathering and this service shine the resurrection dawn into your life.

INVOCATION

In the Name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, Man of Nazareth in Galilee, Victor over death, Lord of all things. **Amen.**

GATHERING LITANY

Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

Lord, grant us faith in the risen Christ.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Lord, grant us belief in eternal life.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortality must put on immortality.

Lord, grant us courage for the future.

We have an inheritance, which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.

Lord, grant us power over defeat.

By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Lord, grant us hope for the new day.

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

Lord, grant us victory through Christ.

People of God, Christ is Risen.

Amen, He is Risen . . . risen from the dead! Alleluia!

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.)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Because Christ Lives . . . We are Redeemed +
**God is love – and we receive that love through His Word,
the Word made flesh in His beloved Son, Jesus.
This is the greatest love we will ever know –
that God would send His Son to us to redeem us
and to show us how to live and how to love each other +**

Because He lives . . . His Spirit Lives in Us +
**Through the gift of the Holy Spirit,
we have the power of Christ in us –
the power to forgive, as we have been forgiven . . .
And the power to love one another, just as God loves us.
And greatest of all,
the power of His Spirit grants us the blessed gift of His peace +**

Because He lives . . . We Praise Him +
**We rejoice and give thanks and praise to Almighty God
who so loved us that He sent His Son to live among us.
His life, death, and resurrection invite us to believe in Him
and come to Him. This is why we celebrate Easter –
because Jesus Christ is Risen and He Lives +**

From death to LIFE The Altar is Appointed

RESURRECTION VICTORY HYMN: 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!

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.**

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!

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!

SENIOR CHOIR

He Is Risen

Nancy Price & Don Besig



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: 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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(from Hippolytus's *Apostolic Traditions* ca. 217 AD)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We have them with the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord. **It is proper and just.**

We give thanks to you God, through your beloved son Jesus Christ, whom you sent to us in former times as Savior, Redeemer, and Messenger of your Will,

who is your inseparable Word, through whom you made all, and in whom you were well-pleased,

whom you sent from heaven into the womb of a virgin,

who, being conceived within her, was made flesh,

and appeared as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin.

It is he who, fulfilling your will and acquiring for you a holy people, extended his hands in suffering,

in order to liberate from sufferings those who believe in you.

Who, when he was delivered to voluntary suffering,

in order to dissolve death, and break the chains of the devil,

and tread down hell,

and bring the just to the light, and set the limit,

and manifest the resurrection,

taking the bread, and giving thanks to you, said,

"Take, eat, for this is my body which is broken for you."

Likewise the chalice, saying,

This is my blood which is shed for you.

Whenever you do this, do this in memory of me.

Therefore, remembering his death and resurrection,

we offer to you the bread and the chalice,

giving thanks to you,

who has made us worthy to stand before you

and to serve as your priests.

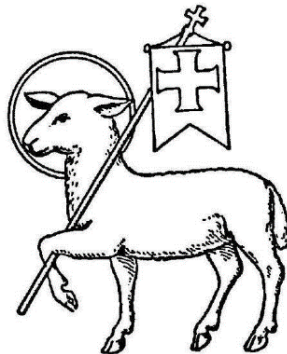
And we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit to the offering of your Holy Church. In their gathering together, give to all those who partake of your holy mysteries the fullness of the Holy Spirit, toward the strengthening of the faith in truth, that we may praise you and glorify you, through your son Jesus Christ, through whom to you be glory and honor, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, now and throughout the ages of the ages. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

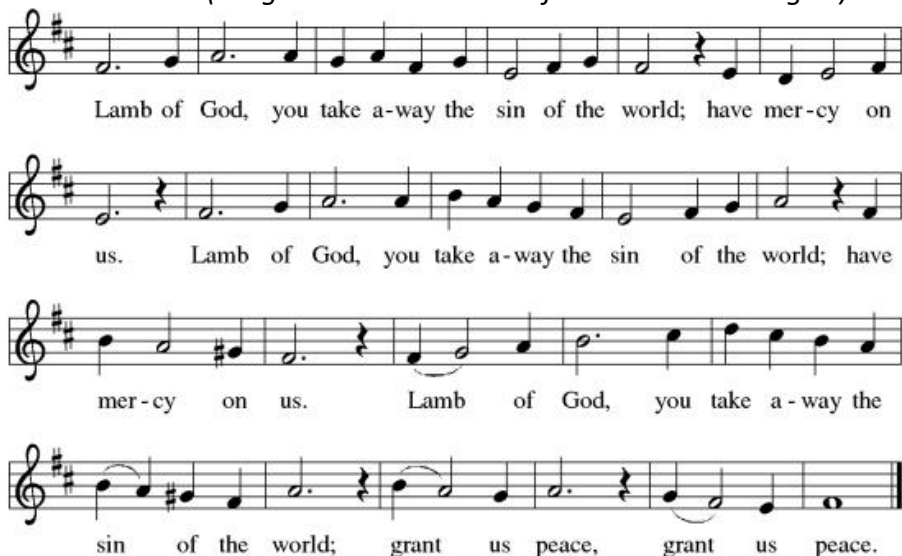
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into 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

Here 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 this holy meal together. We have gluten free wafers, so please let the pastor know if you need one. If you or your child do not normally receive Communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing, just let the pastor know.

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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

(Following the Post Communion Blessing and Prayer, if weather permits, we will leave the Sanctuary directly and gather outside, which was the first place that our Risen Lord was encountered as dawn broke long ago. Follow those who are leading the service. Please take this bulletin with you as the liturgy for the service continues on the following pages.)

OFFERING

If you have not already placed your Easter offering in one of the plates beside where you picked up your bulletin, then you are invited to do so as we make our way outside. Should we be unable to continue worship outside, please make your offering at the conclusion of the service.

LITURGY FOR THE WELCOME OF THE SON, WHO NEVER FAILS

PRAYERS AT THE DAWN OF RESURRECTION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In Your mercy, let us share the divine life of Him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

By whose authority are you here?

We are the ones Christ called friends.

What path do you follow?

By the grace of God we follow the way of the Risen Christ.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Let us pray. O God, strength of the powerless and light of all darkness: Look in mercy upon your Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world experience and see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through Him from whom they first took being, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1-2, 15-24

Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good, and His love is eternal.

Let the people of Israel say, "His love is eternal."

Listen to the glad shouts of victory in the tents of God's people:

"The Lord's mighty power has done it!"

"His power has brought us victory, his mighty power in battle!"

There are glad shouts of victory in the tents of the righteous:

the right hand of the Lord is exalted.

Open to me the gates of righteousness:

That I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,

because you have given me victory!

**The stone which the builders rejected as worthless,
turned out to be the most important of all.**

This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!

**What a wonderful day the Lord has given us;
let us be glad, let us celebrate!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**



COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Spread the message: Christ is alive!

Live the good news: our lives are renewed!

We have seen and heard the good news.

We have been touched by the presence of Christ.

Share the Word: God's peace is offered to all.

Communicate the power of love: be transformed.

We are saved and reconciled and empowered.

God has chosen to make all things new.

Announce and proclaim: God is our strength.

Rejoice in the promise: We shall triumph over death.

This is the day which the Lord has made!

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

Children by the grace of God, one in Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy.

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

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE (*if indoors*)

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

Annastyn 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.



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	Lily Johns
Asst. Minister	Karen Ferrari
Greeters	Debbie & Jim Merrison
Lector	Teresa O'Malley
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm

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

@Peters-LCEC



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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