



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25th & 26th, 2023

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 S Michigan St.

Mission Statement:

To Praise God boldly. Witness to God's goodness. And Serve God with joy.

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

THE CHURCH IS GATHERED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

** You are invited to stand as you are able.*

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection*

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

* GATHERING HYMN

ELW #666

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- 2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

- 3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing
on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

*** 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.**

*** KYRIE (On Sunday) Page 203**

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-
emn prayer. We come to hear your living
word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away
our sin. Pour out your grace and make us
whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and
shame depart. Renew us with your saving
pow'r; create in us new hearts!

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your Son came into the
world to free us all from sin and death.
Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in
Christ and serve you in righteousness all
our days, through Jesus Christ, our Sav-

ior and Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS SING (on Sunday)

KID TALK (on Sunday) Pastor Miranda

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (on Sunday)

Setting Ten- ELW pg. 205

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you: you
are merciful and kind— slow to anger, rich
in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

*** GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also

go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see

the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

SERMON

- **Bishop Felix Malpica** (on Sunday)
(Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod)
- **Pastor Nile Sandeen** (on Saturday)
(Pastor of Mt. Sterling and Utica Lutheran Churches)

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #925 *"Beautiful Things"*

1. All this pain: I wonder if I'll ever find my way. I wonder if my life could really change at all.

2. All this earth; could all that is lost ever be found? Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

Refrain

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.

3. All around, hope is springing up from this old ground. Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

Refrain (3X)

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.

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**

(Assisting Minister)

After each prayer, please respond with the words "Receive our prayer".

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING – brought forward at this time

*** OFFERING PRAYER** (Assisting Minister)
God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

CHRIST'S MEAL IS SHARED

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (spoken)

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.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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.

DISTRIBUTION (continuous)

LAMB OF GOD (on Sunday) pg. 208

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

CHOIR SINGS (on Sunday)

"Were you There"

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

(Assisting Minister)

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT TO BE THE
CHURCH**

*** BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, ✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN: ELW #886**

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
vs 1-4

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
- 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
- 4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

*** DISMISSAL** (Assisting Minister)

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mary Ellen Hornseth, Keith Beaty, Chris Bohlen, Robert "Bud" Mertz, Karen Rocksvold, Oaklynn Peterson, Nancy Wagoner, Michele Goebel, Lisa Rogers, Cenny Belken, Dale Natwick, Wendy Vanderbilt, Ethelyn Boardman, Tom Bennett, Morris Corlett, and Wes Bohlen.

Prayers for Comfort and Hope for:

- Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite and family at the death of Pastor Hillary's mother Beverly Burns.
- The family and friends of Nellie Bouzek who passed away this week.
- Tom & Cathie Nelson and family and friends of Mitch Nelson who passed away this week.

Saturday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Linda Smrcina

Reader— Julian Shedivy

Acolyte— Cooper Nichols

Assisting Minister— Terri Anne Natwick

Comm. Server— Terri Anne Natwick

Sunday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Rick and Pat Lenz

Reader— Lynda Beaty

Acolyte— Clark Fritsche & Channing Erickson

Assisting Minister— Michael Douglass

Comm. Server— Michael Douglass & Lynda Beaty

Easy Worship— Ruth Taylor

Camera— Matt Lenz

FELLOWSHIP

Lenten Suppers on Wednesday nights— It will be so wonderful to join together for food and fellowship each Wednesday during Lent. Suppers will be served from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. each night, with worship beginning at 6:30 p.m. **This week the meal will be hosted by the High School Youth and the Koeller/Breuer families. The free will offerings will go to the high school mission trip.**

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

- **Palm/Passion Weekend Worship**, April 1st at 5:15 p.m. and April 2nd at 9:00 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 6th**, worship at 6:30 p.m. Also broadcast live on the radio and via Facebook..
- **Good Friday, April 7th**, worship at 6:30 p.m. Also broadcast live on the radio and via Facebook.
- **Easter Vigil, April 8th**, worship at 5:15 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday, April 9th**, worship at 9:00 a.m. Also broadcast live on the radio and via Facebook.

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to order an Easter Lily in honor of a loved one, please contact Robbie in the church office at 608-326-6411 or fill out a form located on the ushers table. They are \$8.99 and you can pick up your plant and take it home any time after Easter Sunday worship. **We need the order and payment submitted no later than Wednesday, March 29th.**

LENTEN THEME

Lenten Mid-Week Worship with Holden Evening Prayer will be on Wednesdays in March at 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for our Lenten midweek worship services. Our theme for Lent, this year, is "Open My Life, Lord", interpreted through the lens of the new mission statement for the La Crosse Area Synod; "Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships, Rooted in God's Love". Each week, there will be a different sensory emphasis of how we encounter God in life; eyes, hands, ears, heart, life. We will hear from a different member of the congregation each of these weeks. They will share a message on one of the topics; encountering God through eyes, hands, ears, heart, life.

LENTEN GIVING

Along side our Lenten Midweek Theme, "Open My Life, Lord", we will be highlighting a different charitable organization each week. This week, our focus mode of life is "Life". The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students of tremendous promise attending ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering those whom God calls into ministry to go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

High School Ministry for 9th-12th grades.

Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- March 29th: Save the Date- Lenten Meal - all high school students are invited to help prepare and serve the Lenten Meal. All free-will offerings will go to support the High School Summer Mission Trip.

Sunday School for 3k to 5th grades

Teaming with families in the growth of their child's faith by providing a fun, loving, and safe community where children meet, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Meets from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for 3k (and potty-trained) thru 5th Grade youth.

- Sunday School Sings during Worship, March 26th.
- Junior Lutherans, April 2nd; TBD

Confirmation Ministry for 6th-8th grades

- Midweek Lenten worship will take the place of class throughout Lent. Students are asked to attend worship in-person and sit as a class (or to sit as a family).

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer Brochures Available now – Summer Camp Registration is open. Come check out the many fun and life-impacting summer experiences. See: www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org.

Sugar Creek Camperships- St. Peter offers \$200 Camperships for children attending Sugar Creek Bible Camp. If your child is not attending a full week (or the cost of camp is less than \$200), St. Peter will pay the whole amount. We are grateful to help support our children going to camp in such a significant way. Also, if financing any amount for camp is an issue, please let us know. We never say "no" to a kid wanting to go to camp!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at 10:15 a.m. Join in a Bible discussion with other youth and adults following worship on Sunday mornings. We will dive deeper into the Gospel reading. We will meet at the front of the Sanctuary at approximately 10:15 a.m. Grab a chair, a coffee, and a treat and bring your ideas and questions to a meaningful discussion.

RADIO AND ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN UP

We are once again starting the flower and radio chart. Feel free to sign up to provide altar flowers and/or sponsor a Sunday radio broadcast in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The cost for the radio broadcast is \$52.00 per week. The flowers are your choice and your price, as we currently do not have a contract for weekly flowers with any of the local flower shops. The charts are located at the back of the sanctuary.

This Week's Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion also broadcast on the radio and Facebook
 - Sunday School Sings, Choir Sings
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Study

MONDAY, MARCH 27

Pastors' day off; Pastor Miranda is on call for Pastoral emergencies

- 5:30 p.m. Tone Chime Choir Practice

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

- 11:00 a.m. Text study for pastors
- 2:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

- 9:15 a.m. (approx.) St. Peter Devotional on WPRE (104.3 FM and 980 AM)
- 11:00a.m. PDC Clergy Mtg.
- 5-6 p.m. Lenten Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion also broadcast on the radio and Facebook
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. Worship at Prison

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S Michigan St.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshiping with us today. Join us again soon.

Worship with us Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship is also broadcast live on the radio at WPRE 104.3 FM and 980 AM radio and Livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc>.

Visitors— We are so glad that you can join us today! We invite you to fill out a blue visitor card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate on the table at the back of the church.

We practice open Communion here — All who seek the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers in this meal are welcome.

Pastoral Care- If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, would like home communion, would like to visit with one of the pastors, or is in need of pastoral care; please call the church office at (608-326-6411). Or reach out to the pastors directly via a call or text: Pastor Miranda's cell phone number is 815-291-5793 and Pastor Hillary's cell phone number is 319-290-8641.

Sharing Your Offering- Thank you for your generosity that supports our ministries here at St. Peter and our mission partners. There are multiple options for sharing your offering.

- For in-person worship, we have an offering plate available on the usher table. We invite you to place your offerings there as you come or as you leave.
- You can mail your check to church: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.
- You can give through Simply Giving, an automated online giving program we have used successfully for years here at St. Peter. An authorization form can be found online on our website www.stpeterpdc.org/Donate or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411.
- You can set up an offering at your bank using free Bill Pay service to have the bank print and mail your check to the church.
- You can give online at www.stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to the "Give" button or select the Give tab at the top to be directed to Vanco/Simply Giving.

The Hungry Jar for March is: ***The Radio Fund.*** Children are invited to help collect the Hungry Jar offerings during the Offering.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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