



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18th & 19th, 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.**

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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 #334**

*"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"*

vs 1-3 & Lent 4 and Lent 5

- 1 Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn.
- 2 We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word;  
ev'ry person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord,  
wears the body of our Lord.

3 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,  
stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow,  
we the river, you the sea,  
we the river, you the sea.

LENT 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
make us children of your light.  
Give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright.

LENT 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as ev'ry breath.

\* 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

Bend your ear to our prayers, **Lord Christ,**  
**and come among us. By your gracious**  
**life and death for us, bring light into the**  
**darkness of our hearts, and anoint us**  
**with your Spirit, for you live and reign**  
**with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one**  
**God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

**PSALM:** Psalm 23 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in  
want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green  
pastures and leads me beside still wa-  
ters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide  
me along right pathways for your name's  
sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your  
staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the pres-  
ence of my enemies; you anoint my head  
with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life, and I will dwell  
in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Choir Anthem:**

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

\* 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 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man  
blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him,  
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,  
that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered,  
"Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he  
was born blind so that God's works might be  
revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of  
him who sent me while it is day; night is  
coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I

am in the world, I am the light of the world.”<sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,<sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, **“Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”**<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, **“It is he.”** Others were saying, **“No, but it is someone like him.”** He kept saying, “I am the man.”<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, **“Then how were your eyes opened?”**<sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”<sup>12</sup> They said to him, **“Where is he?”** He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, **“This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.”** But others said, **“How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”** And they were divided.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, **“What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”** He said, **“He is a prophet.”**

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”<sup>22</sup> His parents said

this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, **“Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”**<sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, **“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”**<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, **“You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”**<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, **“You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”** And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of

the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, **“Surely we are not blind, are we?”** <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”  
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**KID TALK** (on Sunday)

**SERMON** – Pastor Miranda

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                    **ELW #779**  
  **“Amazing Grace”**

- 1    **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**  
  **that saved a wretch like me!**  
  
      I once was lost, but now am found;  
      was blind, but now I see.
- 2    **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,**  
      **and grace my fears relieved;**  
      **how precious did that grace appear**  
      **the hour I first believed!**
- 3    **Through many dangers, toils, and**  
      **snarcs**  
      **I have already come;**  
      **'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,**  
      **and grace will lead me home.**
- 4    **The Lord has promised good to me;**  
      **his word my hope secures;**  
      **he will my shield and portion be**  
      **as long as life endures.**
- 5    **When we've been there ten thousand**  
      **years,**  
      **bright shining as the sun,**  
      **we've no less days to sing God's praise**  
      **than when we'd first begun.**

**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, suf-**  
**fered 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 resur-**  
**rection of the body, and the life everlast-**  
**ing. 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 ser-  
vice 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.

**LAMB OF GOD** (on Sunday) pg. 208

**COMMUNION HYMN** ELW #814  
*"Take Oh, Take Me as I Am"* (sung 3x)

Take, oh, take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.

**DISTRIBUTION** (continuous)

**\* COMMUNION BLESSING**

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
(Assisting Minister)

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 #452**  
*"Awake O Sleeper, Rise from Death"*

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.

**\* DISMISSAL** (Assisting Minister)  
Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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## **This Week's Events**

### **SATURDAY, MAR. 18**

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

- 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

### **MONDAY, MARCH 20**

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

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

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

- 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
- 7:15 p.m. High School Mission Trip Information Meeting

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Quilters
- 5:00 p.m. Book Club at Library
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

### **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
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Study

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## In Our Prayers This Week:

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

## Prayers for Comfort and Hope for:

- Bette Beneker and family at the death of Bette's husband Greg Beneker on Thursday morning.
- Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite and family at the death of Pastor Hillary's mother Beverly Burns on Wednesday night.
- The family and friends of Susan Ludvik who died on Monday morning. A funeral service will be held for Sue at St. Peter at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 20th, with visitation from 9-11 a.m. and luncheon at St. Peter following the burial.

## Saturday Worship Volunteers:

**Ushers**– Terri Natwick

**Reader**– Ruth Skelly

**Acolyte**– Sheila Nagel

**Assisting Minister**– Jackie Eckert

**Comm. Server**– Jackie Eckert

## Sunday Worship Volunteers:

**Ushers**– Sandy Nagle/Jan Weisensale

**Reader**– Lynda Beaty

**Acolyte**– Harper Fritsche & Karly McShane

**Assisting Minister**– Luanne Neumann

**Comm. Server**– Luanne Neumann & Lynda Beaty

**Easy Worship**– David DeHart

**Camera**–

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

**Lenten Devotions and Calendars** are available, in the back of the sanctuary. The weekly Bible Study booklet and daily prac-

tice calendar were developed by the ELCA World Hunger task force.

## 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 church choir.**

## 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 "Ears". Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. They do this by providing a safe place to live, a meaningful job, and a lifelong sisterhood of support. We believe love is the most powerful force for change in the world. Because love has the power to heal. For more information and to support this ministry visit [www.thistlefarms.org](http://www.thistlefarms.org) .

## 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.

## YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

**High School Ministry for 9th-12th grades.** Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- March 19th: Youth Advocacy Retreat Registration Deadline  
- contact Pr. Hillary for details
- March 22nd : 1st Mission Trip Info Meeting following Lenten worship (7:15 pm). Bring your questions and your ideas or come to simply learn more.
- 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.

### **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).

### **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

## 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](http://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!

## 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 29<sup>th</sup>.**





# *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](http://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](http://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**

Website: [www.stpeterpdc.org](http://www.stpeterpdc.org) Mailing Address: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Office Phone: (608) 326-6411 Office Email: [stpeterpdc@hotmail.com](mailto:stpeterpdc@hotmail.com)

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer: (815) 291-5793 & [stpeterpdcpastormiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:stpeterpdcpastormiranda@hotmail.com)

Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite: (319) 290-8641 & [stpeterpdcpastorhillary@hotmail.com](mailto:stpeterpdcpastorhillary@hotmail.com)