

# Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026

In-Person Worship: St Peter at 9:00 am

Facebook Live, 9:00 a.m. at "St Peter Lutheran Church"

You Tube (Live) at "St Peters Lutheran Church Rockwell, IA"

Church Office: 641-822-3101 Email: [stpeter@netins.net](mailto:stpeter@netins.net)

Lay Minister Jason Grunklee: 641-990-9328 (call or text)

Email: [grunklee0@gmail.com](mailto:grunklee0@gmail.com)

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Please Stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW #614 "There is a Balm in Gilead"**

### There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.

you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."

and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**Greeting (ELW p. 213)**

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.**

## The Cantic of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

### 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.**

(Please be seated)

**FIRST READING:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy

and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM:** Psalm 23

*You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)*

<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 waters.**

<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 presence 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.**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,  
<sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

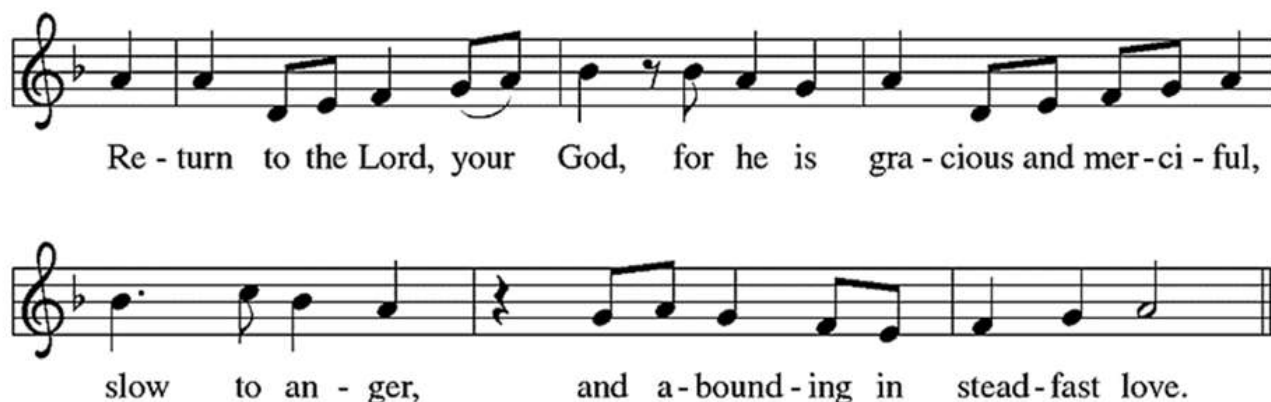
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation** (Please Stand)



**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **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 he.” <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.” 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, 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 who were with 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.** (Please be seated)

## **Children's Sermon**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** ELW #666 "What Wondrous Is This"

## What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.  
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**Baptism:** Estella Marie Neal daughter of Ben and Madison Neal

(Please Stand)

### **Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

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.

### **The Prayers:**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. (*Response to the petition.* "Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**")

“Lord, Listen to” Your Children Praying” ELW #752

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your spirit to this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

*(Leader will lead you in prayer, then sing again.)*

**Please remember in your prayers:** Jim Turner, Christine Foell, Jo Thomas, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Lorna Thompson, Wendell & Dawn Thomas, Audrey Harder, Kathleen Hansen, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet, Joan Petersen, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Renee Dahlen, Diane Stearns and all who are homebound or hospitalized.

**“Please turn and greet your neighbor.”**

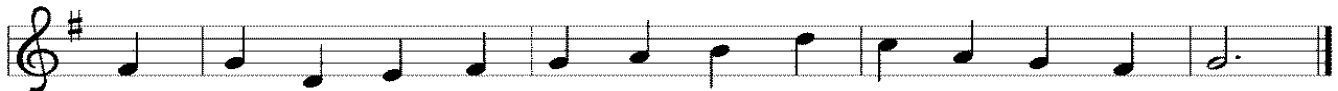
**Offering**

**The Offertory: (Please Stand) #686 “We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

**We Give Thee but Thine Own**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.  
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

**Offering Prayer**

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught;  
**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.

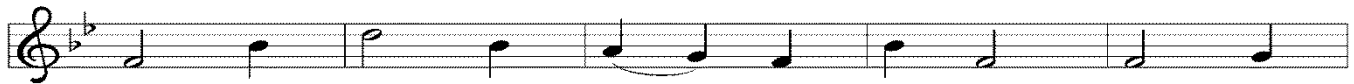
### Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

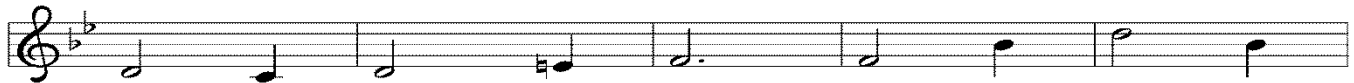
Amen.

### Sending Hymn ELW #324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#### In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### USHERS FOR MARCH

Jay Thompson & Families

## **GREETERS**

**Shane & Nancy Heft**

## **COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR MARCH**

**Jay & Carla Thompson**

## **ACOLYTES FOR MARCH**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Lane & Benton**

**Congratulation's to Ben and Madison on the baptism of their daughter Estella Marie Neal.**

## **Sunday School News**

### **Lenten Mission Project 2026**

Over the past 10 years, the Sunday School has completed 10 Lenten Mission Projects. The funds that we have raised have been used to provide vaccines, clean water, irrigation, bought cows, pigs, chicks, and honeybees, among other things. This year, a few of the 3rd-6th graders decided to raise funds to put towards fish farms and supporting someone through a semester of Seminary School. This fishbowl will be in the back of the church if you would like to contribute to our project. We will be collecting funds from now till Easter Sunday and hope to collect \$3000 to put towards the project. We would like to thank you for your past support and hope for another successful Lenten Mission Project. In the words of Helen Keller "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

### **Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp**

Spring Blast is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 from 9:30-4

- Leave St. Peter at 8 am on Saturday, return around 5 pm
- It is a great way to explore Riverside and get the fun of summer camp packed into a day!
- Need to be a current 2-6 grader to attend
- \$45 per camper (lunch and snack are included), Missions will pay \$25.00
- Check out the Riverside Website for more details and to register

<https://riversidelbc.org/spring-blast> (you might even recognize a Sunday School teacher)

- Pam Litterer will need to know by April 5 if your child will be attending to ensure we have enough drivers.

Summer Camps are also open to those in grades 3-graduated high school seniors.

Check out the website for cost and dates. <https://riversidelbc.org>

### **Upcoming April Dates to keep in mind**

- Sunday School Kids will sing during the 9 am Church Service on Easter Sunday (April 5, 2026)
- On Sunday, April 12, the second graders will receive their Bibles during the 9 am church service

**Soup suppers are being served** on March 18, and March 25. If you have questions or would like to help with any of these please call Lana Schaefer 641-425-7615. Thank you in advance for all those working and those attending. The suppers will be served at 5:30 followed by our Lenten Service at 7:00.

**Sacred Heart's 80<sup>th</sup> annual IRISH FAIR** on Sunday, March 22 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Live auction starts at 1:30 pm. GAMES FOR ALL!! Bingo Raffles, sack auctions, live auction and lunch will be served. 305 Elm Street E, Rockwell.

**THE WOMEN OF FAITH GROUP** IS BEGINNING A PROJECT MAKING PRAYER SHAWLS. ANYONE THAT CROCHETS OR KNITS IS WELCOME TO JOIN US. WE HAVE BOOKS WITH PATTERNS TO USE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PLEASE CONTACT LANA SCHAEFER, LOUISE PATTERSON OR BEV PETERS.

### Calendar for the Week

Sunday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service and Baptism 10:00 am Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation
Monday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm Bingo @ Care Center
Tuesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:15 am Prayer Service Rockwell Care Center 5:30 pm Fellowship Games 5:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Wednesday Service
Sunday, March 22 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation