

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church  
**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Midweek Service in Lent, Wednesday, March 4, 2026**  
In-Person Worship: St Peter at 7:00 pm  
Facebook Live, 7:00 pm at “St Peter Lutheran Church” and  
You Tube (Live) at “St Peters Lutheran Church Rockwell, IA”

**Call to Worship** (Please stand)

Behold, now is the acceptable time.

**Now is the day of salvation.**

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**that the light of your face may shine on us.**

May your justice shine like the sun;

**and may the poor be lifted up.**

**Thanksgiving for Light**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.

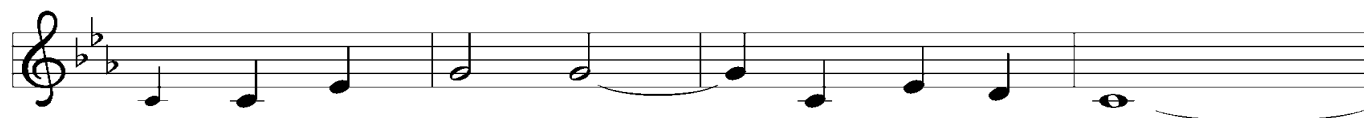
Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ;  
may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for you are merciful,

and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

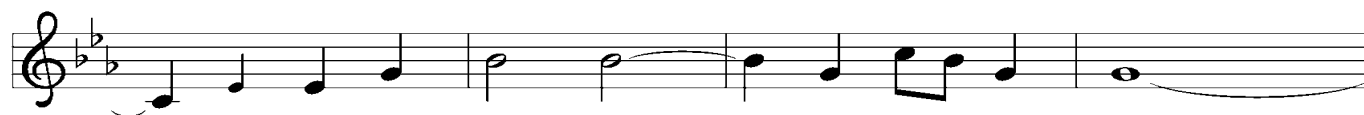
**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: ELW# 325 “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”**

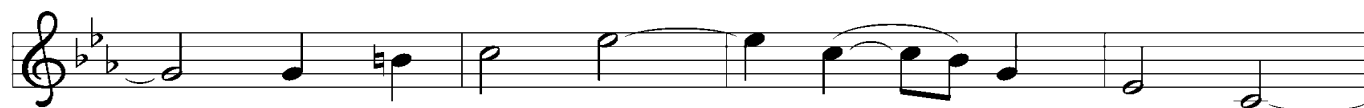
## I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



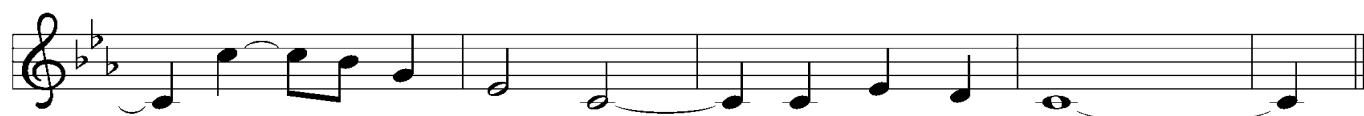
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

### Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God who hears our cries when we have lost our stability, heed now the prayers of all who look to you for reassurance. We bring before you all those who suffer today and crave your loving care, in the name of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son and our Savior. **Amen.** (Please be seated.)

### First Reading: Lamentations 1:1-7

*Lamentations was read publicly each year to remind the Jews that their nation's sin and brokenness brought destruction; but also that sorrow, confession, and repentance bring healing and wholeness.*

<sup>1</sup>Jerusalem once was full of people, but now the city is empty. Jerusalem once was a great city among the nations, but now she is like a widow. She was like a queen of all the other cities, but now she is a slave.

<sup>2</sup> She cries loudly at night, and tears are on her cheeks. There is no one to comfort her; all who loved her are gone. All her friends have turned against her and are now her enemies.

<sup>3</sup> Judah has gone into captivity where she suffers and works hard. She lives among other nations, but she has found no rest. Those who chased her caught her when she was in trouble.

<sup>4</sup> The roads to Jerusalem are sad, because no one comes for the feasts. No one passes through her gates. Her priests groan, her young women are suffering, and Jerusalem suffers terribly.

<sup>5</sup> Her foes are now her masters. Her enemies enjoy the wealth they have taken. The LORD is punishing her for her many sins. Her children have gone away as captives of the enemy.

<sup>6</sup> The beauty of Jerusalem has gone away. Her rulers are like deer that cannot find food. They are weak and run from the hunters.

<sup>7</sup> Jerusalem is suffering and homeless. She remembers all the good things from the past. But her people were defeated by the enemy, and there was no one to help her. When her enemies saw her, they laughed to see her ruined.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** John 11:17-36 (Please remain seated.)

*Jesus knew Lazarus would die, but he showed his power by raising him from the dead.*

*Before seeing him perform this great miracle, however, we see that Jesus was sensitive to grief and pain.*

The Holy Gospel According to John, the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” <sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

<sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message:**

**Prayers**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children, you know the secrets of our hearts. When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found. Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear, for you are with us.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows. Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus, giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** (Please stand)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.**

**Blessing:**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** ELW # 335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

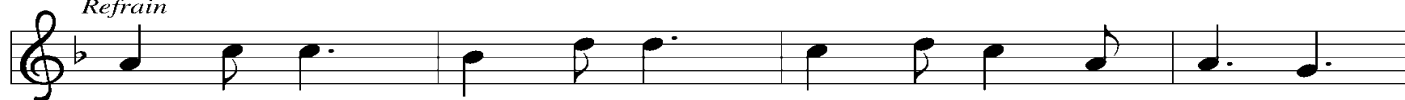


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

### *Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing  
may we be a blessing true;  
may we live and die confessing  
Christ as Lord of all we do.  
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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**Dismissal:** Go in peace, Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**