

# Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Sunday March 8, 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)

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## **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 #533 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife,  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

**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 Canticle 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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 17:1-7

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

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

**PSALM:** Psalm 95

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.  
<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**  
<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.  
<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**  
<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep  
of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!  
<sup>8</sup> **"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**  
<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.  
<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**  
<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:1-11

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

## Gospel Acclamation (Please Stand)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Gospel: John 4:5-42

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman

answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting."<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together."<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days."<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word."<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #793 "Be Thou My Vision"

## Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord,  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light,  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r,  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art,  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

(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.)*

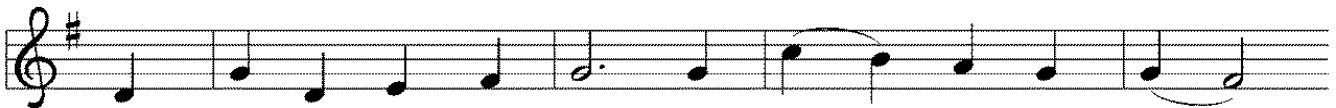
**Please remember in your prayers:** Jim Turner, Christine Foell, Jo Thomas, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Lorna Thompson, Wendell & Dawn Thomas, Audrey Harder, Kathleen Hansen, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet Hoftiezer, Joan Petersen, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Renee Dahlen, Diane Stearns and all who are homebound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

**"Please turn and greet your neighbor."**

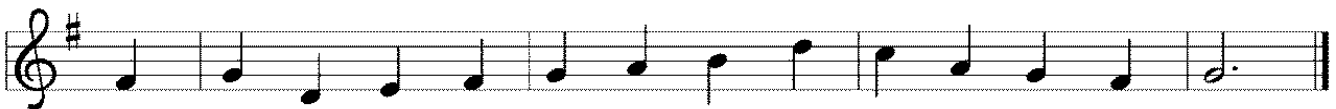
**Offering**

**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.**

## Holy Communion

**Words of Institution:** “In the night in which he was betrayed...”

**The Lord’s Prayer:** “Our Father, who art in heaven...”

**Communion Distribution** (Please be seated)

**Prayer after Communion** (Please stand)

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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 #623 “Rock of Ages”**

### Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **USHERS FOR MARCH**

**Jay Thompson & Families**

### **GREETERS FOR MARCH**

**Shane & Nancy Heft**

### **COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR MARCH**

**Jay & Carla Thompson**

### **ACOLYTES FOR MARCH**

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

**With deepest sympathy and prayers** to Janet Hoftiezer and Family with the passing of their loved one Kevin Hoftiezer.

## **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>

### **No Sunday School on the following dates**

- Sunday March 8

### **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

**During the season of Lent** the Women of Faith will once again will be serving delicious soup suppers prior to some of the Lenten Services. Please check the handbook to see if you are included on one of the committees. You will also receive a letter with information about the supper. Soup suppers will be served on March 11, 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.

**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.

**Fish fry's are being held** at the Sacred Heart Parish Center from 5 -7 pm on Friday nights March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>. Menu is fish, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, dessert and drink. All for a free will donation! Hosted by the Knight of Columbus with help from the Ladies Guild.

**This morning Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>** Mission Thornton will be serving Biscuits and Gravy from 9:00am -12:00pm at the Thornton Community Center. Free Will Donation

**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.

## Calendar for the Week

Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion <b>NO</b> Sunday School & Confirmation 10:00 am Coffee
Tuesday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Saturday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Breakfast 7:30 am
Sunday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Worship Service and Baptism 10:00am Sunday School & Confirmation 10:00 am Coffee