

Welcome

St. Peter Lutheran Church

18 February 2026

Ash Wednesday Worship

6:00pm

***This service will be livestreamed to our Facebook page
and posted on our website.***

This Week:

Wednesday, February 18th

Ash Wednesday

4:45pm Lenten Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00pm Worship (Sanctuary)

6:30pm Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, February 19th

10:00am Fidget Mats (Quadrooms)

Saturday, February 21st

10:00am Love Fellowship Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, February 22nd

8:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

9:00am Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)

9:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fireside Room)

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)



**Glorify God.
Build Relationships.
Follow Jesus.**

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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*St. Peter Lutheran Church is a faith community where:
We glorify God by building healthy relationships with God, with one another, and with our community following the example of Jesus Christ.*

**** The Pastor will read the italicized parts of the service. ****
**** If you would like to participate, please join in reading the bold font in unison. ****

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer and penitence that begins the forty-day season of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the observance of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent is also a time when we journey with those in our community and around the world preparing for baptism and Easter.

On Ash Wednesday we confess our sin in a litany of penitence. During Lent's forty-days we are invited to observe the traditional Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer, and works of love.

We receive the sign of ashes as an external mark of penitence. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and mourning, reminding us of our mortality. We recall God's words to Adam and Eve following their disobedience: You are dust, and to dust you shall return. The use of ashes also calls to mind the words of the funeral liturgy, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." By honestly facing our need for forgiveness and healing, we turn to the springtime of God's mercy and grace.

With the cross on our brow, we journey through Lent, longing for the baptismal waters of Easter, our spiritual rebirth.

(Gather in silence. Please stand.)

PSALM 51

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.***

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

GREETING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, 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.)

READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

*See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.***

(Please stand.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

Pastor Kristin Berglund

(Please stand.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Restore in Us, O God

ELW # 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

*We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.***

*Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.***

(Please be seated.)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by

*the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.***

(Please come forward to receive the ashes.)

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Ash Wednesday Hymn

St. Peter Choir

(Please stand.)

*Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, **that we may show forth your glory in the world.***

*By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, **bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.***

*Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.***

THE PRAYERS

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.***

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.***

COMMUNION

*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.***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(Please be seated.)

All are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please follow the instructions given by Pastor.

Grownups are always welcome to bless non-communing children with the words "You are a loved child of God" and the sign of the cross on their forehead, hand, or in front of them. If you use individual cups, please place the used cups in the baggie and leave the baggie in the large glass bowl as you depart worship. Gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN This Moment of Remembrance St. Peter Choir

(Please stand.)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God our salvations, 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.

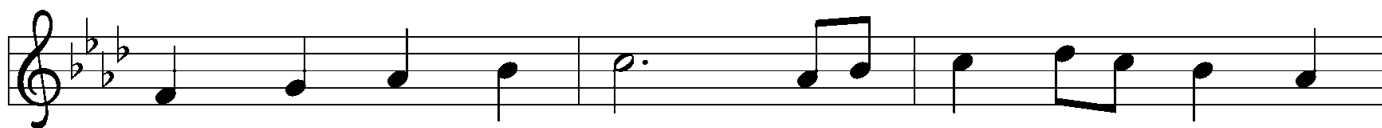
BLESSING

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.

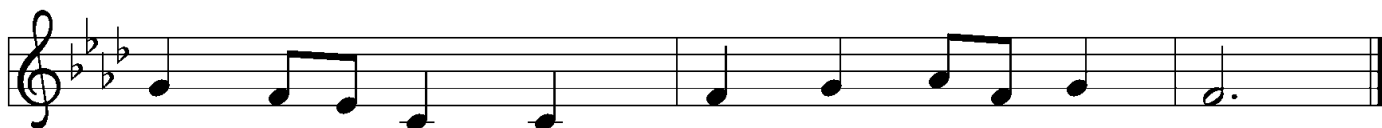
SENDING SONG O Lord, throughout These Forty Days ELW # 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. Thanks be to God.

(Depart in silence.)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Message: Pastor Kristin Berglund

Reader: Paul

Usher: Dick & Nancy

Communion: JoAnne, Ginny, Dawn B

Imposition of Ashes: Dawn B

Altar Guild: Ginny

Music: Lori

Tech: Aimee

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