

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion for 10:30
March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday of Lent
Welcome – Pastor Cathy Schibler

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.

We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"The God of Abraham Praise" (vs. 1-4)

#831

1. **The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love - -
"I Am the One I Am" by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**
2. **The God of Abr'ham praise! At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake – its wisdom, fame, and pow'r—
and you my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.**
3. **The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus' blood.**

4. **Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace forevermore.**

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 p. 138

In peace let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A-----men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together, *God of the covenant,*

in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis, in the 15th chapter.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun

had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30)

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians, the 3rd & 4th chapters.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p. 142 (Sun)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke in the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Cathy Schibler

1. Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, upon a cross they bound you,
and mocked your saving kingship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you.
And still our wrongs may fashion now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,
and robe of sorrow round you.
2. O awesome Love, which finds no room in life where sin denies you,
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom the pow'r that crucifies you,
till not a stone is left on stone, and then the nations' pride, o'er thrown,
will nevermore defy you.
3. New advent of the love of Christ, will we again refuse you,
till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose you?
From ancient doubts our minds release to seek the kingdom of your peace,
by which alone we choose you.
4. O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us your new creation;
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled; we wait your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before your cross;
come, finish your salvation.

DEDICATION OF THE DIGITAL PIANO

Dear friends: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart this digital piano for the glory and praise of God. The Kawai CA 901 digital piano was purchased with the generous donations of Jamie Ebert and others who matched his donation.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Sing with joy to God our strength

and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

Praise God with tambourine and dance;

praise God with strings and pipe.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts. The whole earth reflects your glory; all your creatures praise you. We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory. You alone do great wonders, and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth. You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children, to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song. In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints. Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song. Send your blessing upon us and upon this digital piano, which we dedicate to your praise and glory. Enrich the lives of your people through it, and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in it. By your Holy Spirit, let this digital piano

enliven the proclamation of your word to the building up of your church, to the glory of your name, and to the good of all your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Organ/ digital piano duet "Softly and Tenderly" By Mary Bauer

Let us pray.

Lord God, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: accept this electronic piano for the worship of your church, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERING SONG

"Create in Me"

#188 (Tune WOV #732)

1. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 144

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks & praise.

P: 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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS p. 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might:

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God (p. 146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

#468

1. **Around you, O Lord Jesus, your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly, “Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!”**
2. **We hear your invitation, and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing, which never will depart.**
3. **We are your own forever, until our final breath
we will be true and never in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling, as you have said you will.**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

#768

*Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

1. **I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

*Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

2. **Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, Lead me.**

*Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

3. **I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, Lead me.**

*Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

TABLE BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Now, Lord”

#200

1. **Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people:
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. A-----men.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

“God of Grace “

#705

- 1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow’r;
crown your ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**
- 2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**
- 3. Cure your children’s warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.**
- 4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!