

**Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146**

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## Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

\* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *PRELUDE*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

**\*C: Amen.**

\*P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*C: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**\*C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**Be Thou My Vision**

**ELW 793**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

\*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**\*C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

\*P: Let us pray. 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

L: A reading from 1 Samuel the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter:

<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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

<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

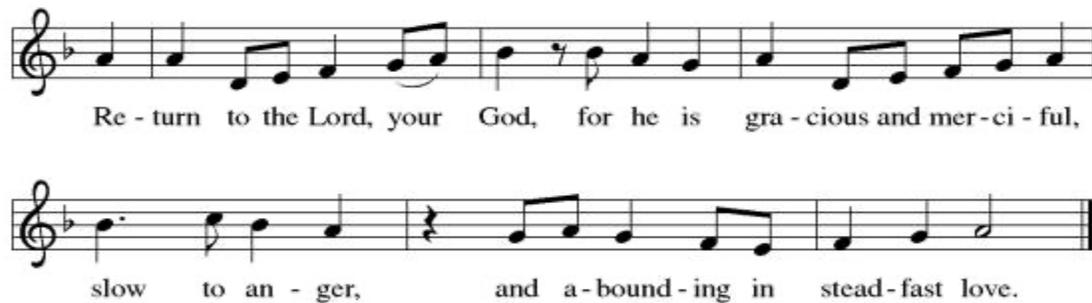
L: A reading from Ephesians the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

<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."

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**  
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

\***C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

<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."

\*P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**\*C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Children's Sermon**

**The Sermon**

Pastor Sue Lynn White

**HYMN OF DAY**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

**ELW 502**

### **\*NICENE CREED**

**\*A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**\*C:** **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Mary Miller, Thomas Tomlinson, Friends of St. Peter's and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now...*(pause)*. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**\*C: Your mercy is great.**

\*P: Through your Law, your prophets, and your Son, O God, you have ever sought to expand our perception and to lead us into a deeper relationship with you and your creation. Keep us in your love. and show us how we might continue Christ's mission of healing and reconciliation in our own lives. All we ask, we ask through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, indivisible and forever.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

\*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**\*C: And also with you.**

\*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

## **THE OFFERING**

### **Anthem**

**Offering Hymn**

**Create In Me A Clean Heart**

**ELW 186**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

\*A: Let us pray. 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

## **PREFACE DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

\*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:

**\*C: Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
 pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

\*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

**\*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.**

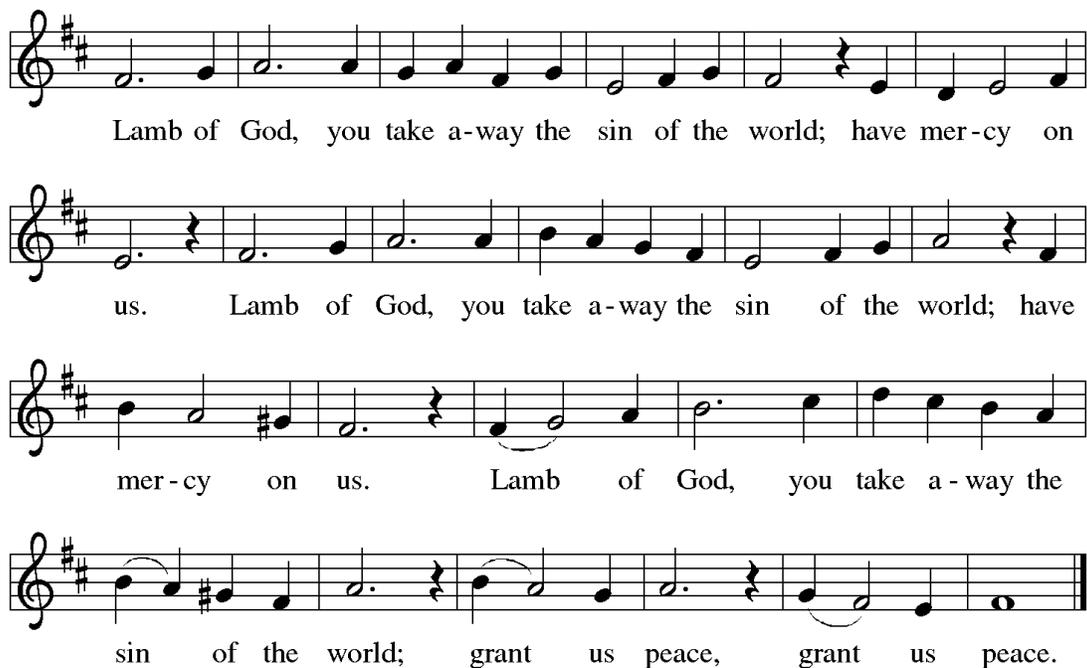
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

\*P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

\*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*A: Let us pray. 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.

\*C: Amen.

## SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### BLESSING

\*P: 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.

\*C: Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**Canticle of the Turning**

**ELW 723**

**THE DISMISSAL**

\*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

**\*C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

\*P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity*

*Postlude*