



April 2, 2026

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

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Pastor Sue Lynn White

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INTRODUCTION

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

***P:** Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most Merciful God,

***C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

***P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.**

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. Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C: Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14

L: A reading from Exodus the 12th chapter

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-2; 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

¹²How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the 11th chapter

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Gospel Acclamation

***C: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.**

*P: The Holy Gospel According to John the 13th chapter.

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

Gospel John 13:1-17; 31b-35

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he

said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.

¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

^{31b}“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

REFLECTION

Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN OF DAY **Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken** (ACS 966) **Insert**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*A: Hear us O God as you have promised and respond as may be best for us as we lift our voices in prayer.

May your church be a sacrament to the world, showing forth your love to the world, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and led by the teachings and example of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

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

May our nation be blessed with leaders who serve with humility and the desire to work on behalf of all. Hear us, O God.

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

May your creation be healed of the damage we have done and may we be advocates of new and better ways of living that are sustainable and life-giving. Hear us, O God.

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

May all who know sickness and pain know your healing presence in their lives and be made whole and at peace. 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.**

May your people gathered here be ever mindful of the love of Christ and inspired by his example to embrace his way and be your agents of love in a hurting world. Hear us, O God.

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

May the dead be remade through your eternal love and rise again in your new age. Hear us, O God.

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

*P: Through Christ you have gifted us with all we need for the abundant life you have offered. Remember your love for us and lead us ever deeper into relationship with you and with one another, through Christ we pray, who with you and the Holy Spirit are One God, eternal and almighty.

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

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

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

*P: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC

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, HEALING PRAYER & ANOINTING

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

**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.**

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

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

LAMB OF GOD

HEALING PRAYER, ANOINTING, & COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

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.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR.....PSALM 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being,^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God^[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;
- ¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

******* ALL DEPART IN SILENCE**



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GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

GATHERING

All gather in silence.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C: **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with affliction.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ² **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
- ³ Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ **Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**
- ⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ **But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- ⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸ **“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**
- ⁹ Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
- ¹⁰ **I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**
- ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
- ¹² **Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- ¹³ They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of
my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ **Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.
- ¹⁸ **They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.

- ²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**
- ²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- ²² **I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- ²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before
the LORD.
- ³⁰ **Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹ They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

The Passion According to St. John

John 18:1-11

¹ [Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to

them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

First candle may be extinguished.

HYMN:

Jesus, I will ponder now

ELW 345

John 18:12-27

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Second candle may be extinguished.

HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, sts. 1-2

ELW 351

John 18:28-40

²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰ They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a rebel.

Third candle may be extinguished.

HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, sts. 3-4

ELW 351

John 19:1-7

^{19:1} Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Fourth candle may be extinguished.

HYMN: Ah, Holy Jesus, sts. 1-2

ELW 349

John 19:8-16a

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Fifth candle may be extinguished.

HYMN:

Ah, Holy Jesus, sts. 3-5

ELW 349

John 19:16b-22

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Sixth candle may be extinguished.

HYMN:

Calvary, sts. 1-2

ELW 354

John 19:23-30

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Seventh candle may be extinguished.

John 19:31-42

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may continue to believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Paschal candle may be extinguished.

SILENT MEDITATION**BIDDING PRAYER**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Emily Hartner our bishops, for Pastor Sue Lynn White our pastor, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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.**

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS *(will need someone to carry in)*

*P: Please stand as you are able and face the entrance to the Sanctuary. As the cross processes by, turn toward the altar.

*P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

***C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

***C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

P: This time in the service is a time to pay respect and reverence to the cross. As you are able, you are invited to come forward to pause before the cross. Feel free to stand or kneel in prayer, touch it, or if you would like to leave a written, heart-felt concern at the cross. This symbolizes leaving all we cling to that does not bring us life at the foot of the cross. You may also spend this time in silent prayer in the pew as music plays.

HYMNS

Holy God, Holy and Glorious

ELW 637

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW 811

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

(The congregation is asked to leave in silence)



Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

March 22nd, 2026

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

Church Website: <https://www.saintpeterslc.org/>

Church Email: saintpetersnc@gmail.com

Pastor Sue Lynn White

(cell 770-833-1922) (pastorsuelynn@gmail.com)

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

***C: Amen.**

*P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*). Blessed are you.

***C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

***C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

***C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

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.**

KYRIE SETTING 10

p. 203

CANTICLE OF PRAISE SETTING 10 Glory Be To God v. 1

p. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C: **Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

L: First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

L: A reading from Acts the 10th chapter:

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the
righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

L: A reading from Colossians the 3rd chapter:

L: ¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the
things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have
died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your
life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

*P: ¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

*P: The Gospel of our Lord. *C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Sermon

The Sermon

Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN OF THE DAY

***APOSTLES' CREED**

***A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***C:** 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

***A:** Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. 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, Bobby

Lambirth, Mary Miller, the family and friends of Gail Horton, friends of St. Peter's, and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now... (*pause*).
Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,
***C: receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,
***C: receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,
***C: receive our prayer.**

***P:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
***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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182

OFFERING PRAYER

***A:** Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
***C: Amen.**

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE

***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 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: On the night he was betrayed,
Our Savior Jesus, bowed and prayed,
With his disciples he is speaking to us
He took the loaf and broke the bread,
Held it high and then he said

This is my body, remember me, Hallelujah.

C: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

P: After the meal, the cup was raised,
The Father's name again he praised
This is my blood poured out for your forgiveness.
A promise given and fulfilled, though I am taken away and killed
Remember me, I am with you, Hallelujah.

C: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

P: So, gathered as His body here,
Refusing to give in to fear
And all the powers of death that seek to lead us.
We stretch our hands, we cry and sing and tell the world HE is our King
We cannot help but claim this Hallelujah!

C: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

P: (Spoken) Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal. This is the body of Christ and the cup of mercy given for you. Gracious God, fill us with your life and grace.

C: That we may always be a people sharing your grace and love in the world. Amen.

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 of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*C: Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 207

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*A: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

***C: Amen.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

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. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

***C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

