

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023



St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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## **Welcome to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**

People endure debilitating disabilities—blindness, deafness—and these ailments are not punishment for sin. Without intervention, people in darkness and utter silence remain isolated. Jesus attends wholeheartedly to those who live in darkness and silence. He illuminates minds and hearts with faith, so that people would confess Him as Lord. He heals the blind so that people would see who He is! Christ's amazing miracles confound the arrogant and enlighten the repentant.

**Holy Communion** – Visitors who are not members of a Missouri Synod Lutheran church are asked to speak with the pastor or one of the elders before receiving the Lord's Supper.

**Contact Information** – To request prayer or to set up an appointment, contact the church office at 853-3217 or [stpeterhilbert@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterhilbert@gmail.com). If you have concerns or spiritual needs, please contact Pastor Peterson or one of the elders.

**Pastor Peterson:** (920) 483-0956

**Elders:** Dan B.: (920) 418-3696 Dan K.: (920) 378-5096  
Dean: 849-9065 Dale: (920) 660-5124

**Liturgy: Divine Service Setting Four p. 203**

**Hymns: 905, 431, 570, 618, 922**

### **Serving in our worship...**

Preacher: Pastor Mark Peterson  
Audio/Visual: Dan Bergelin, Dan Koffarnus  
Altar Guild: Donna Marose, DeAnn Eldred

This Week at St. Peter  
March 19 – 26, 2023

Sunday, 3/19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Tuesday, 3/21	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday, 3/22	10:30 a.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
Sunday, 3/26	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> <i>(Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45)</i>	
	8:30 a.m.	Divine Service (NC)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School

## **Statement on Holy Communion**

I believe that I am a sinner. I repent of my sin and ask God's forgiveness. With His help I will amend my sinful life. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and, under the form of the bread and the wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. I resolve to dedicate my life to the service of my Lord by regular group worship, sacrificial giving, thankful living and sharing the Gospel with others.

In the Lord's Supper, the risen Christ is at once the Giver and the Gift! By His promise, His very body and blood are really present, and thereby we come into immediate contact with the exalted Christ! As we do so, witness is also given to oneness in doctrine by those who receive the Sacrament together. For this reason, we practice close(d) Communion.

God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood invisibly in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27–29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the Sacrament will want to first speak with the pastor before communing. As a courtesy, guests from sister congregations of the LCMS are asked to introduce themselves to the pastor before communing.

**Introit**

*Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

**P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

**C** for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**P** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**C** that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

**P** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**C** he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**C** I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**All:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

**C** for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**Gradual**

*Hebrews 12:2*

**P** [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

**C** the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**P** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

**C** and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers are in remembrance of Joe Storino.

Decorating the church for Easter will be Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Lenten Midweek Services – Wednesdays (March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) St. Peter service at 10:30 a.m., St. Luke at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Services – Maundy Thursday Divine Service with Holy Communion April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

BibleSticks Challenge – Until Easter, we will be collecting funds for Military BibleSticks. The military bible sticks are an important mission project for our men and women serving in the armed forces. Your gift can be put in an envelope marked “BibleStick” and placed in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to the church.

Women’s Day at Zion New Holstein Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Alleluia Ringers Handbell Choir – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church (300 Broad Street, Menasha) is having a special concert featuring the Alleluia Ringers Handbell Choir (from Concordia University, Mequon). Professor Mark Bloedow, Director will be conducting. This is a fundraising event for Trinity to purchase Handbells. Please contact the church office at 772-2662 or call Rose at (608)213-2644 for any questions.

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Thank you to everyone who designated Choice Dollars to St. Peter. Choice Dollars for 2022 expire March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Psalm 142:5 – “I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’”** The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.

## Old Testament

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

## Holy Gospel

*John 9:1–41*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So 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>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” 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 how he now sees we do not know, 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 these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to 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 said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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>And 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, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man 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 in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”