



SECOND SUNDAY  
*in Lent*

**Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

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

***Church Email: [saintpetersnc@gmail.com](mailto:saintpetersnc@gmail.com)***

**Pastor Sue Lynn White**

**(cell 770-833-1922) ([pastorsuelynn@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuelynn@gmail.com))**

## Second Sunday in Lent: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *PRELUDE*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**\*C: Amen.**

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

\*P: Compassionate One,

**\*C: 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.**

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN    Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise    ELW 834**

### 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. 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading.....Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

L: A reading from Genesis 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.....(Lector: )

<sup>1</sup> 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." <sup>2</sup> 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?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> 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."

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

## **Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
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 seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon  
a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround  
me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of  
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

Second Reading.....Philippians 3:17-4:1

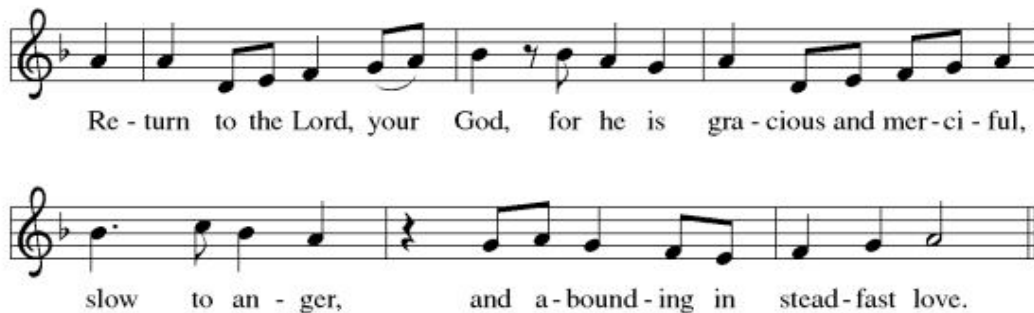
L: A reading from Philippians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.....()

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>4:1</sup> 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.

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

### Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

\*The Holy Gospel.....Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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.’ <sup>34</sup> 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! <sup>35</sup> 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.’”

\*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    My Hope is Built on Nothing Less    ELW 596

\*NICENE CREED.....(Assistant Minister:)

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

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need especially Marlene Shue, John Trexler, Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Kathy Brown, Lynn DeBerry, Nancy Monroe, Marcia Ritchie, Thelma Barger, Lucy Shue, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer and those we hold in our hearts and lift before you now. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

\*P: 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.

\*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

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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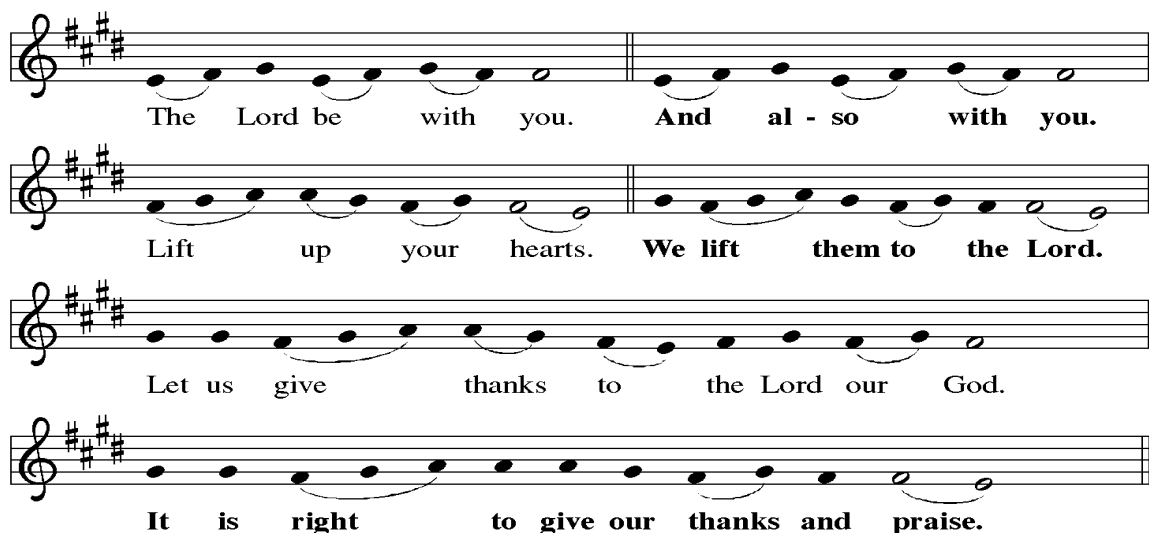
## OFFERING PRAYER

\*A: 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. \*C: **Amen.**



## MEAL

### PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

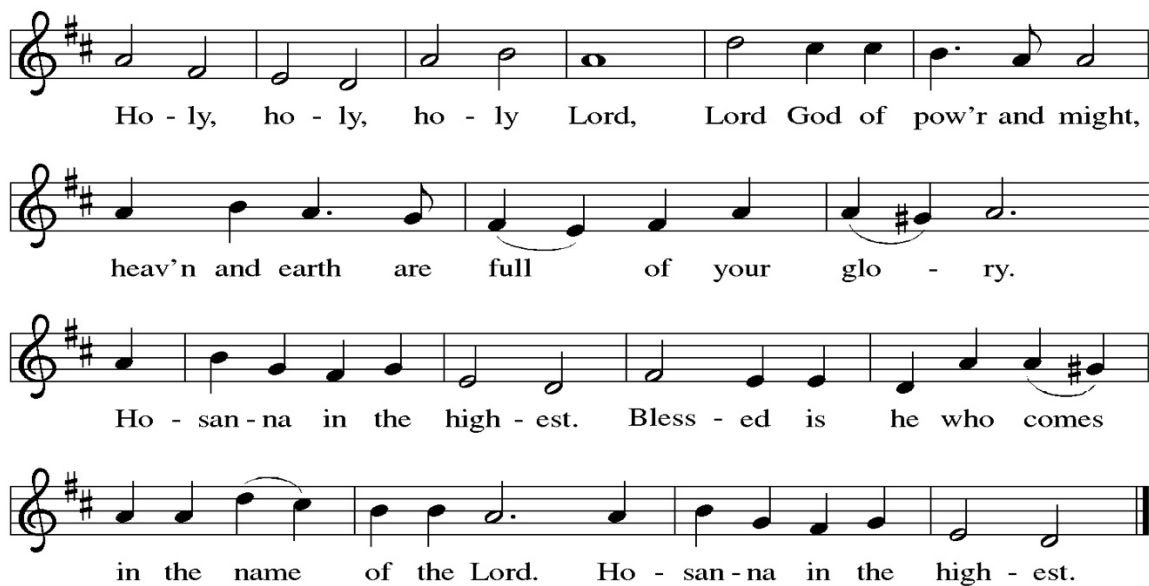
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

\*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... 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: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

\*C: Thanks be to God.

### 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: 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.

\*C: Amen.

## **SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **BLESSING**

\*P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

\*C: **Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN      **Lead Me, Guide Me**

**ELW 768**

### **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. Care for others as God cares for you.

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

*\*Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity Postlude*