



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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## Fourth Sunday in Lent

*March 10, 2024*

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others*

**Welcome!** It's not too often that we find ourselves in a truly "life or death" situation - thanks be to God! Today's Old Testament reading records a frightful day in the life of Israel when many of her people died from venomous snakes as punishment for their disobedience to the Lord. But in His mercy, the Lord relented and provided the people with a miraculous antidote. Our Gospel reading proclaims Jesus Christ to be the ultimate (and only) antidote for sin and death. The whole human race faces a spiritually "life or death" situation, and Jesus is the cure.

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

***Divine Service, Setting Two***  
*LSB page 167*

***The Preparation***



**Prelude:** “Aus tiefer Not” – J. G. Walther

**Words of Welcome**

**Invocation, Confession and Absolution**

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

***The Service of the Word***

**Entrance Hymn:** 437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

**Kyrie** (page 168)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
Your mercies are new every morning;  
and though we deserve only punishment,  
    You receive us as Your children  
    and provide for all our needs of body and soul.  
Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness,  
    give thanks for all Your benefits,  
    and serve You in willing obedience;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
    one God, now and forever.



C: **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9 (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 107:1-9



<sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord, for | he is good,\*  
    for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!  
<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD | say so,\*  
    whom he has redeemed from | trouble  
<sup>3</sup> and gathered in | from the lands,\*  
    from the east and from the west,  
    from the north and | from the south.  
<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in | desert wastes,\*  
    finding no way to a city to | dwell in;  
<sup>5</sup> hungry and | thirsty,\*  
    their soul fainted with- | in them.

<sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in  
their | trouble,\*  
    and he delivered them from | their  
    distress.  
<sup>7</sup> He led them by a | straight way\*  
    till they reached a city to | dwell in.  
<sup>8</sup> Let them thank the LORD for  
his | steadfast love,\*  
    for his wondrous works to the  
    chil- | dren of men!

<sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the | longing soul,\*  
    and the hungry soul he fills | with  
    good things.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**Epistle Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10 (see back cover)

**Lenten Verse** (page 173)

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

**Gospel Reading:** John 3:14-21 (see back cover)

Acclamations (sung): **Glory to You, O Lord.  
Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed** (see inside the back cover of the hymnal)

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day:** 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

**Sermon**

**Prayers** After each petition of the prayer:

P: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Request List** (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

*For comfort:*

Hoffschneider family	Death of Sherry	Dunbar
Erkeboni/Teschke families	Death of Becky	Teschke
Pilchard family	Death of Rob	Heebner
Ciqus family	Death of Mina	Teschke

*For those with health concerns:*

Ekaterina	Fran Bryzinski	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Sue Miller
Bob Latimer	Harry Tinsman	Phillip Trivett	Audrey deDufour
Brennan	Marge Carr	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie
Diane Pullen	Barbara Nixon	Pete Serone	

*For those with cancer:*

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Charles Greenberg	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Judy Grube
Trudy	Kaleigh Crowe	Steve Saumsiegle	Candace



*For those serving in the armed forces:*

LJ Lupinacci Carrick Porter Nate Fiske Jake Grube Jim Buckman (son)  
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)

*For those suffering around the world:*

War in Europe Prayers for peace and forgiveness  
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine Prayers for health, safety, and provision  
War in Middle East Prayers for peace and forgiveness

*Birthdays*

Joe Gallagher Mar 10 Ed Heebner Mar 12  
Fran McAllister Mar 11

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

**Instrumental Offertory:** “Interlude in d minor” – Anonymous

**Congregational Offertory:** 955 “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**The Service of the Sacrament**

**Order of Holy Communion** (page 177)

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven...**

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**



**C: Agnus Dei**      **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymn: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon (page 182)

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.**  
**My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people;**  
**A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.**  
**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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

**Benediction** (page 183)

**Closing Hymn:** 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**    P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
                  C: **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Aus tiefer Not" – G. Kaufmann



**Announcements – Week of March 10, 2024**  
**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**  
**Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00 to help.**

**Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Bill Kianka (Communion Assistant), Cheryl Gewecke (Reader), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Shirley Yost and Am Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/WfnT34GsNh0?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** We're on break from our study of Acts until after Easter. Join us for worship on Wednesdays at 7:30pm through the season of Lent. We'll resume on Wednesday, April 3rd.

**Sunday Bible Study.** This Sunday we'll discuss the Power of Baptism. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our baptism? What did Jesus say about being "born again" as a Christian? What does the Bible say about a "baptism in the Holy Spirit", and how is this related to baptism with water?

### *Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry*

**Prayer Shawl Ministry.** The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them!

**Prayer Chain.** The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

### *Service and Other*

**Healing Service on Tuesday, March 19, 7 PM.** Join us for an interactive service of worship, song, and healing prayer, a welcome respite of peaceful reflection and devotion.

**Spring Clean-up Day, Saturday March 16th 8:30am till Noon.** Bring your shovels, rakes, clippers, gloves, wheelbarrows and cleaning supplies to help spruce up the property before Easter. We will be working inside and outside the building. If you can't make it on Saturday a task list will be posted on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to work on them during the following week.

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Yes, it's that time of year again! If you'd like to donate eggs for our Easter morning Easter Egg Hunt, please grab a dozen or two from the box in the narthex, fill with individually-wrapped candies, stickers, or tchotchkes, and return by Palm Sunday. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers to be 'hiders'. We'll get to work at 9:30 or so to be ready for the 10:00 start time. It's always a blast! Thanks for your help!

**Lenten Services & Meals.** Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. Join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. We'll follow the Lenten theme: "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High". Borrowed from the title of a beautiful hymn (LSB 544) and based on Ephesians 3:17-21, this sermon series will focus on the enormous dimensions of God's merciful love for sinners in Christ, with the goal of helping us more fully comprehend and rejoice in "the breadth and length and height and depth" of that love as we experience it through Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. **Come early at 6:30 pm and enjoy our Lenten soup supper with friends!** See the bulletin board for more information.

**Operation Christmas Child.** As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For **March** we could use **children's or costume jewelry, jump ropes, and matchbox cars**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

**Flowers.** Although flowers will not be placed on the altar during Lent, there is a flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for spring. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion. Suggested donation is \$25.

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **March's collection is Breakfast – cereal, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, etc.**

**Faithfulness Report:**

Attendance: 3/3: 77  
Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$ 5187  
Loan angel: \$ 650

**Weekly Schedule.**

TUESDAY (3/12) 6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; Noon Elders Meeting;  
4:30pm Confirmation Class  
WEDNESDAY (3/13) 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper; 7:30pm Midweek Lenten Service  
THURSDAY (3/14) 9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapels  
SATURDAY (3/16) 7:30am Men's Breakfast & Spring Clean-Up Day  
SUNDAY (3/17) 8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship;  
6:30pm Sr. Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington



**Lenten/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:**

<b>Lenten Soup Suppers</b>	<b>Wednesdays, 6:00 PM, Feb 21-March 20</b>
<b>Midweek Lenten Services</b>	<b>Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Feb 21-March 20</b>
<b>Service of Healing</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Palm Sunday Service</b>	<b>Sunday, March 24, 9:30 AM</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>Thursday, March 28, 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Good Friday Service</b>	<b>Friday, March 29, 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Easter Sunday Services</b>	<b>Sunday, March 31, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM</b>
<b>Easter Breakfast</b>	<b>Sunday, March 31, 9:15 AM</b>
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>Sunday, March 31, 10:00 AM</b>

**Website and Facebook.** Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!

**Other Important web links.**

NJ District LCMS	<a href="http://njdistrict.org">njdistrict.org</a>
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	<a href="http://lcms.org">lcms.org</a>
LCMS World Relief and Human Care	<a href="http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief">lcms.org/ca/worldrelief</a>
The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast	<a href="http://lhm.org">lhm.org</a>

**This week’s Bible memory verse challenge:** *Luke 9:23*

*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

### Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—<sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have

been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."