

Peace Lutheran Church
St. Joseph MI
Worship with Communion
Sunday, March 19, 2023 10:15 am
Fourth Sunday In Lent

The purpose of Peace Lutheran Church is to express by Word and Deed the Love of God revealed in Jesus Christ to those within and to those outside its fellowship.



Peace Lutheran is striving to conduct as “normal” a worship service as possible while taking into account the need for health measures within the larger community.

Bold Print: Congregation’s responses

PRELUDE

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome!

If you’d like to know more about the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, please fill out our card online by pointing your phone at the graphic to the right. Prayer requests can be posted to the live chat or by filling out a prayer request form and giving it to the usher.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER FOR CONFESSION *(please stand as you are able)*

In joy and thanksgiving we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. *(Psalm 146:2)*

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God is faithful and just and will hear us and grant us forgiveness.

(silence for reflection and personal confession)

Eternal Father,

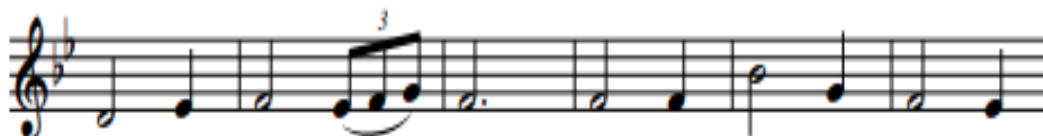
We come before you recognizing that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have failed to follow your commandments and have done what we know is contrary to your holy will. Forgive us, and grant us the joy of your saving presence again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

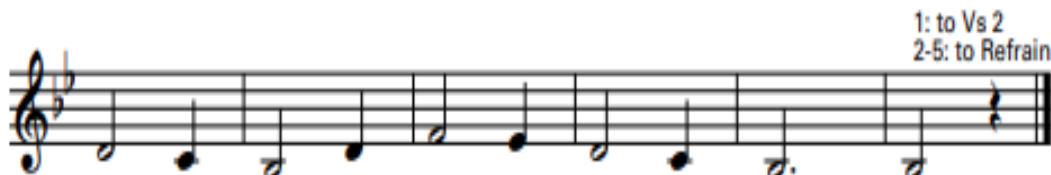
GATHERING HYMN - THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow With
3. Per - verse and fool - ish I have strayed, But
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your
6. And so through all the length of days Your



1. good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
2. gen - tle care he leads me, And where the ver - dant
3. yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
4. you, dear Lord, be - side me; Your rod and staff my
5. sav - ing grace be - stow - ing; And O what joy and
6. good - ness fails me nev - er: Good Shep - herd, may I



1. I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
2. pas - tures grow, With heav'n - ly food he feeds me.
3. gen - tly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
4. com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
5. true de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!
6. sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

1: to Vs 2

2-5: to Refrain

GREETING

May the Grace of God our heavenly Father who laid the foundations of the world, the love of the Son who is seated at the right hand of God in majesty, and the peace of the Holy Spirit which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord,

Lord Have Mercy.

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

Lord Have Mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord Have Mercy.

For this house and for all who worship here let us pray to the Lord,

Lord Have Mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

Holy One, you give sight to the blind and life to those who trust in your Son. May the light of your Christ pierce through our blindness and open us to your way of life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 42:14-21

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. 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. 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. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 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? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 142

I cry to the LORD with my voice;
to the LORD I make loud supplication.

**I pour out my complaint before him
and tell him all my trouble.**

When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path;
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

**I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me;
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.**

I cry out to you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

**Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low;
save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.**

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name;
when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gather around me.

THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 9:1-41 *(please stand as you are able)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Ninth Chapter

Glory be to you O Lord.

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. 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?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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.” 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. 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.” 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 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 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.” (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.) Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 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.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 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?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 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. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ. (*please be seated*)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - AMAZING GRACE

NEW BRITAIN



1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound That saved *a
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing



1. wretch like me! I once was lost, but
2. fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
3. hope se - cures; He will my shield and
4. read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
5. as the sun, We've no less days to



1. now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2. grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
3. por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

*Alternate text: "and set me free!"

Text: CM; verses 1–4, John Newton, 1725–1807; verse 5, anon., fr. *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790.
Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(please stand as you are able)*

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Let us pray ...

Each petition concludes: Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERING - CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. 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. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cre - ate in me a clean
heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some phrases like "Spir - it" and "Ho - ly Spir - it" spanning across multiple staves. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. 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. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me."

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord God, we give you thanks for the wondrous gifts you have so freely given us. You are the source of our lives, our work, and our possessions. In an act of worship we offer back to you what you have first given to us, that our sacrifices in some small way, might express our devotion to you and be used to spread the Good News of Christ to the world. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and salutary... we praise your Name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen. *(please be seated)*

DISTRIBUTION

(When directed by the usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. All who are baptized or commune in their home church are welcome at the Lords' Table. Adults and children are welcome to come forward for a blessing: simply cross your arms in front of yourself.)

COMMUNION

After all have returned to their places, we stand and the Pastor continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

In the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, remember brothers and sisters, to show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. Instead, go into the world to share God's love so that all will know his goodness and mercy. (James 2:1)

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN - HOLY GOD WE PRAISE THY NAME



1. Ho - ly God, we praise thy name;
 2. Hark! the loud ce - les - tial hymn
 3. Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train
 4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son,

Lord of all, we bow be - fore thee!
 An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
 Join, the sa - cred name to hal - low;
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name thee;

All on earth thy scep - ter claim,
 Cher - u - bim and Ser - a - phim,
 Proph - ets swell the loud re - frain,
 While in es - sence on - ly One,

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore thee;
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim thee;

In - fi - nite thy vast do - main,
 Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord:
 And from morn to set of sun,
 And a - dor - ing bend the knee,

Repeat ad lib.

Ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
 "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 Through the Church the song goes on.
 While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: *Grosser Gott, wir loben dich*; ascr. to Ignaz Franz, 1719–1790; tr. by Clarence Walworth, 1820–1900
 Tune: GROSSER GOTT, 7 & 7 & 77; *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, c.1774

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

(You are invited to remain seated until the ushers dismiss your row.)

POSTLUDE

Next Week's Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45 [46-53]



A brunch will take place after the Palm Sunday service. Ham will be provided. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. A sign up will be posted on the podium in the Narthex beginning Sunday, March 12.

Worship Attendance & Giving

Sunday Attendance Total: 31

Sunday Giving: \$ 1,465

Simply Giving: \$ 227

***Major Rep. & Maint: \$ 0**

Total Giving: \$1,692

Total Operating Fund: \$1,692

Weekly Budget Need: \$2,654

Over/(Under) Budget: (\$ 962)

* Designated Funds, which are subtracted from total giving to make our operating fund



**March 22, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

For an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter sponsor code: PEACELUTHERAN
or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



Soup and bread suppers will take place each Wednesday night at 6:00 during Lent. If you would like to help with soup, there is a sign up on the podium in the Narthex. Bread will be provided by each fellowship member.



JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING! ... LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Let's face it, gardening just hasn't been the same since Covid! Short supplies of our favorite plants has plagued Nurseries since 2020.

Plus, no money saving discount programs were available!

BUT, BE OF GOOD CHEER!

Barbott's Discounted Bedding Plant Sale is back!

Peace will once again offer Barbott bedding plant certificates at discount prices!

Plus, you pay no sales tax when using the plant certificates*

Why pay full cost for your plants if you can save \$\$\$ for yourselves while earning \$\$\$ for the church?

Barbott Farms opens April 29th

Start planning your flower and vegetable garden needs now!

Orders due no later than April 9th (Easter Sunday)

	PEACE CERTIFICATE COST	BARBOTT RETAIL	SAVINGS
48 PLANT FLAT	\$12.00	\$14.49	\$2.49 EACH
10" HANGING BASKET	\$15.00	\$17.99	\$2.99 EACH
4.5" ROUND POT	\$ 4.50	\$ 5.79	\$1.29 EACH
4" SQUARE POT	\$ 2.75	\$ 3.69	\$.94 EACH
\$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE	\$ 25.00*	\$ 25.00*	

***When using the \$25.00 gift certificate you still earn \$\$\$ for Peace, but you pay Barbott's retail price and sales tax on your purchase.**

Place your order before April 9th to have your certificates before Opening Day!

Be sure to order enough for your needs as only a limited supply of 'extra' certificates may be available after Opening Day

Order forms will be available on Sundays, in the office during the week and in the weekly blast

UPDATE ON BIBLE STUDY, BINGO AND LENT

Lent begins Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

On the following dates:

BINGO will be moving to Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m during the Lenten season.

Feb 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 9

BIBLE STUDY of “The Chosen” will be on hold until after Lent. It will reconvene on Wednesday, April 12th. The new Chosen is list below 8 sessions.

April 12- Thunder. Tensions builds among the disciples in Samaria. Jesus rebukes Big James and John for their prejudice and after a near violent encounter gives them a new nickname.

April 19- I Saw You. A mysterious visitor seeks to hesitant. Tension builds between Simon and Matthew. As the group head to a new city, word arrives that Jesus fame is growing.

April 26- Matthew 4:24. A long exhausting day turns Jesus to deal with a large crowd hoping to be healed. Around the campfire over dinner, the group tried to get to know each other better, but tensions erupt.

May 3- The Perfect Opportunity. As Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles, a new enemy follows them, while a familiar enemy awaits!

May 10- Spirit. After stirring the water, Jesus is now pursued by Simon the Zealot, Atticus, and Shmuel. John the Baptizer visits the group and tells Jesus his dangerous mission. Meanwhile, back at the camp, Mary Magdalene is devastated by an encounter with a mysterious and dangerous stranger.

May 17-Unlawful. Matthew and Simon try to get along as they search for Mary in dark places. The group fears for Mary as they struggle with the lack of food and bad new about John the Baptizer. Meanwhile, Jesus continues to upset the Pharisees across multiple regions.

May 24- Reckoning. After learning of Jesus’ whereabouts, Quintus sends Gaius to arrest him. The disciples lose control as they argue about how to respond. While seeking information about where Jesus has been taken. Andrew and Philip encounter old friends.

May 31- Beyond Mountains. While Jesus and Matthew prepare the content of the big sermon, the disciples spread the word while fighting amongst themselves. A high-ranking Sanhedrin member is shocked by Shmuels’s reports on Jesus. Thousands arrive for the sermon, including familiar faces.

Assisting with Worship

Liturgy: Teresa Hogan; **Sermon:** Ken Berry
Organist: Maria Tallman
Choir Director: Debbie Kroening
Audio: Josh Lochner
Video:
Usher: Wayne Schuermann
Altar Guild: Margaret Schmieding
Welcome Center: Margaret Schmieding
Communion Assistant: Ken Berry
Lector: Virgil Bennett
Greeters:

Prayer Requests

March Birthdays
24 Mark Carpenter

The Shut-Ins
Leona Barowicz
Andrea Barowicz
Thomas Boozer
Evelyn Chevrette
Ruth Retzke
Gloria Siewert
Delores Gaul
Marilyn Hettig

Prayer Requests
Debbie Bartels
(pancreatic cancer)
Darlene Gaul
Delores Gaul
Delores Kraklau
Angie Layman
(cancer)
Juli Nurbhai
(brain tumor)
Joyce White
(cancer)
Jane Wilson
(vision problems)
Robert Winters
Mary Wood
(pneumonia)
Survivors of the earthquake
in Turkey

Community of Michigan
State University
President Jimmy Carter—
hospice care at home



Church Office Contact: (269) 556-7000
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Email: PeaceLutheranStJoe@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.PeaceLutheranStJoe.org
Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church NALC

Welcome members, friends and visitors! Please sign the register at the welcome center. Visitors, we pray your welcome was warm here at Peace and we invite you to visit with the Pastor following the service.

Worship Times: **Sunday:** 10:15 a.m.

Christian Education and Prayer Opportunities:

Monday: 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours
 6:00 p.m. - Bingo
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours
 11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.: Blood Drive
 6:00 p.m. – Soup and Bread Supper
 7:00 p.m. - Mid-Week Lenten Service
Thursday: 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours
 7:45 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting
 7:00 p.m. - Choir practice
Friday: Office Closed
Sunday: 10:15 a.m. - Worship with communion

Comfort Room

We love children in Worship! If you have a child who becomes restless, it's okay. If you feel the need, you may step behind the glass wall at the back of the church, or use the Classroom C, (the third classroom), which is set up with comfy couches and rocking chairs to provide a calm environment. Live video is provided so you won't miss any of the service. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

Communion

Communion is celebrated every Sunday. Additional communion services may be added during special seasons such as Advent and Lent. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. White grape juice is available.



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