

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
of New Pittsburg, Ohio

9451 Ashland Road, Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 264-1986 • office@stpeterelca.org • Website: stpeterelca.org

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Woods, Pastor

Phone: 419-706-5072 • Email: pastorstephaniewoods@gmail.com



Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday

Service of Holy Communion
Hymns from ELW
6:30 P.M.

Welcome to St. Peter! As we worship together today, we join a long history of people loving God and each other. As God loves us, we aspire to love others, so that all might know the grace and mercy of God.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

Go To Dark Gethsemane

Vicki Moore

GATHERING

Return to the Lord your God;
for the Lord is abounding in steadfast love.
Gather to worship your Lord God;
for the Lord is abounding in steadfast love.
Pray to the Lord your God in all times and places;
for the Lord is abounding in steadfast love.
Love the Lord your God;
for the Lord is abounding in steadfast love.
You are beloved by God just as you are;
for the Lord is abounding in steadfast love.

*GATHERING SONG

Just As I Am

ELW 592

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, **out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of love, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

Assembly is seated.

CONFESSION

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's steadfast love. We are created to experience joy in loving communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to love as Christ first loved us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our failure to show our love for you in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You are invited to come forward as you are ready to receive ashes. The minister will mark your forehead with the forehead of each person who comes forward with the sign of the cross in ashes. During the imposition of ashes, we invite you to pray silently for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*For those hurt by the church and for those saved by the church,
For those who nurture creation and those nourished by creation,
For the awe of creation in its generative power and its destructive forces,
For government leaders, aid workers, peacekeepers and all who guide
our world,
For those without places to lay their heads or fill their stomachs,
For those in physical pain and those in mental anguish,
For those clouded by grief and those overcome by anger,
For those celebrating new life and those waiting for near death,
For those who are overwhelmed with business and those underwhelmed
by loneliness,
For those who give generously and those who receive agreeably,
For the courage to question and doubt and the boldness to wait for
answers,
For those who have gone before us and those who follow after,
For those who set examples for us and those for whom we are the
example,*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God in the abundance of your steadfast love, have mercy on
us, hear all our prayers, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen us in all love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep
us in eternal life.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
 a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against 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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:1-6:16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Assembly is seated.

SERMON

Never Too Late

Pastor Stephanie

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly

ELW 608

OFFERING

A Holy Offering

Vicki Moore

The assembly stands

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (WOV 732)*

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.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness love.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your beloved name.

Amen

(The table is prepared)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

PREFACE – *(Sung)*

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*ELW Setting 3*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

***LORD’S PRAYER**

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

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**

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 3)

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

***BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

***SUNG BLESSING** to the tune of “*Edelweiss*”

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

***BLESSING**

Beloved,
we are God’s own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

You are God’s beloved. Be love to the world.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Go To Dark Gethsemane

Vicki Moore