



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

7710 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
749-5816

March 14, 2026 – 5:00pm
March 15, 2026 – 10:30am

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist
Chris Brune, Principal
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

THE FOURTH WEEKEND IN LENT

March 14, 2026 – 5:00pm

March 15, 2026 – 10:30am

CALL TO WORSHIP

“I Come to the Cross”

(Praise Team)

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace,
I come to the cross where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into Your strength,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open, You call me by name,
You welcome the child that was lost.
You paid the price for my guilt and my shame,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

(All)

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace,
I come to the cross where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into Your strength,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open, You call me by name,
You welcome the child that was lost.
You paid the price for my guilt and my shame,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We rise.)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Before God, who so loved the world as to send a Savior, let us confess our sin with a contrite heart.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P Almighty God,

C We confess that we are a broken people who put ourselves before others. Too often, we have not shared bread with the hungry, given the homeless a home, clothed the naked, and worked for justice among all peoples. We cry from the depths of our sin, O Lord, even as we put our trust in Your word. Heal us by your grace, and take from us all that would separate us from Your love. Amen.

P With the Lord there is mercy and full redemption. We are refreshed and renewed in the living water of Christ. 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 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.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C 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. Amen.

PSALMODY

Psalm 142

P With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

C I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.

P When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

C Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

P I cry to you, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.”

C Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!
Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

P Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!
The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

C 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.

(We are seated.)

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Rescue”

(Soloist)

You are not hidden
There’s never been a moment
You were forgotten
You are not hopeless
Though you have been broken

Your innocence stolen
I hear you whisper underneath your breath
I hear your SOS, your SOS

(Praise Team)

I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you

(All)

**I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you**

(Soloist)

There is no distance
That cannot be covered
Over and over
You're not defenseless
I'll be your shelter
I'll be your armor
I hear you whisper underneath your breath
I hear your SOS, your SOS

(All)

**I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you
I will never stop marching to reach you
In the middle of the hardest fight
It's true, I will rescue you**

(Soloists)

I hear the whisper underneath your breath
I hear you whisper, you have nothing left

(All)

I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you
I will never stop marching to reach you
In the middle of the hardest fight
It's true, I will rescue you
Oh, I will rescue you

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who 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? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Shine On Us”

(Praise Team)

Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your light shine on us

(All)

**Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your light shine on us**

**Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us**

**Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us**

Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let Your light shine on us

(We rise.)

HOLY GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.” ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and

asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.²¹ 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.”²² (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.)²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴ 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.”²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ 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?”²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.³¹ 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.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(10:30 – During the Song of Response, children age 3 through first grade are invited to attend “Kids of the Kingdom” children’s church. They will return following the sermon.)

(We are seated.)

SONG OF RESPONSE “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see!

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;

But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine,

You are forever mine.

SERMON

“And You Are...?”

Text: John 9:1-41 – Pastor Adam McDowell

(We rise.)

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(We are seated.)

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING SONG “The Wonderful Cross”

(Praise Team)

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

(All)

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Merciful God,
C You bless us with gifts that sustain our lives; You transform us with the priceless gift of grace. Receive us and these signs of your blessings, and may our fasting, prayer, and works of love be an offering of thanksgiving for all that You have done for us in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(We rise.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Heavenly Father, in Your mercy You have called us out of darkness into the marvelous light of Your Son. Hear now the prayers of Your people for the Church, the world, and all who stand in need, Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For Your holy people, O Father, that the light of Christ would shine in their words and deeds, Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For all who govern and lead among the nations, that You would anoint them with Your Spirit of justice, wisdom, and compassion, Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For all who live with poverty, anxiety, or illness (*especially those we have named and those we name silently before you*), that You would guide, strengthen, and comfort them according to Your will, Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For peace in the world, O Father, especially amid conflict and unrest in Iran, that You would restrain violence, protect the innocent, and guide the nations into the ways of justice and peace Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For ourselves, that You would open our eyes to Your presence in our lives and to the needs of all who suffer around us, Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For Pastor Nate as he deliberates a call to serve at Zion Lutheran Church that You would grant him clarity, peace, and confidence in Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P For all the saints who have lived as children of light, we give You thanks, O Father. Bring us from the darkness of this age to the unending light of Easter and the resurrection of the dead, Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

(We are seated.)

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

“Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

“The Power of the Cross”

(Praise Team)

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

(All)

O, to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your blood-stained brow.

This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

"His Mercy is More"

(Praise Team)

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn

Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

(All)

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.**

(Praise Team)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

(All)

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.**

(Praise Team)

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

(All)

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn**

Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.**

Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

“He Is Our Peace”

(Praise Team)

He is our peace who has broken down ev'ry wall.
He is our peace. He is our peace.
He is our peace who has broken down ev'ry wall.
He is our peace. He is our peace.

Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you.
He is our peace. He is our peace.
Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you.
He is our peace. He is our peace.

(All)

**He is our peace who has broken down ev'ry wall.
He is our peace. He is our peace.
He is our peace who has broken down ev'ry wall.
He is our peace. He is our peace.**

**Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you.
He is our peace. He is our peace.
Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you.
He is our peace. He is our peace.**

(We rise.)

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Heavenly Father, we have tasted the good food of Your table of grace. Nourished by the life of Your Son, may we live as children of the light, sharing Your good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Goodness and mercy shall follow You all the days of Your life.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(We are seated.)

SENDING SONG

“Lead Me to the Cross”

(Praise Team)

Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember,
Redemption's hill where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom.
Everything I once held dear I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out,
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down,

Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh lead me . . . lead me to the cross.

(All)

Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember,
Redemption's hill where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom.
Everything I once held dear I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out,
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down,
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh lead me . . . lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human,
The word became flesh, bore my sin in death,
Now You're risen.
Everything I once held dear I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out,
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down,
Rid me of myself, I belong to You,
Oh lead me . . .

Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out,
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down,
Rid me of myself, I belong to You,
Oh lead me . . . lead me to the cross.

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

“Lead Me to the Cross”