



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

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

April 4, 2026 – 5:00pm

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

HOLY SATURDAY

April 4, 2026 – 5:00pm

PRELUDE

“Were You There”

arr. Eugene Hancock

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

P O God, You have directed us to bring offerings for Your glory. We implore You to bless this Paschal Candle. Grant that it may reflect our love for You, benefit Your Church, and bring joy to those who use it; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P We light this Paschal Candle tonight, symbol of the eternal light that shines forth through the merits of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, the same Jesus Christ who was in the beginning and is today. He was in Himself the beginning and the ending. His are time and eternity. His are glory and dominion forever.

C Amen.

(The Paschal Candle is lit.)

P May all the darkness of our hearts and minds be dispelled by the Light of Christ who will rise on Easter morning in glory.

OPENING HYMN

(Tune: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”)

“All is O’er, the Pain, the Sorrow”

**All is o’er, the pain, the sorrow, human taunts and Satan’s spite;
Death shall be despoiled tomorrow of the Prey he grasps tonight.**

Yet once more, His own to save, Christ must sleep within the grave.

Fierce and deadly was the anguish on the bitter cross He bore;
How did soul and body languish till the toil of death was o'er!
But the toil, so fierce and dread, bruised and crushed the Serpent's head.

Close and still the tomb that holds Him while in brief repose He lies;
Deep the slumber that enfolds Him, veiled awhile from mortal eyes –
Slumber such as needs must be after hard-won victory.

So this night, with voice of sadness chant the anthem soft and low;
Loftier strains of praise and gladness from tomorrow's harps shall flow:
Death and Hell at length are slain, Christ has triumphed! Christ does reign!

(We rise.)

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.

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C **O** God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(We are seated.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 6:1-24

¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel

unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”⁶ Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.”⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. ¹⁰When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹²Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” ¹⁴Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” ¹⁷And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel

were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 4:1-8

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. ⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(We rise.)

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:57-66

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the

Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

(Tune: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives")

"Lord Jesus, Who, Our Souls to Save"

Lord Jesus, who, our souls to save, did rest and slumber in the grave,
Now grant us all in Thee to rest, and here to live as seems Thee best.

Give us the strength, the dauntless faith which thou has purchased with thy death,
And lead us to that glorious place where we shall see the Father's face.

O Lamb of God, for sinners slain, we thank Thee for that bitter pain.
Grant that Thy death for us may be our entrance into life with Thee.

SERMON

"The Lord's Sabbath"

Text: Matthew 27:57-66 – Pastor Danny Eggold


RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

VOLUNTARY

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

arr. John Leavitt

OFFERTORY



C 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

(We rise.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Gracious God, keep Your Church steadfast in faith. Preserve her in the truth of Christ crucified, sustain all pastors and ministers of Your Word, and strengthen the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, look with mercy upon the world You have made. Preserve the earth, bless field and forest, sea and sky, and grant that all creation may serve Your good purposes

and declare Your wisdom and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Father, restrain evil, frustrate the designs of the wicked, and guide all who bear authority, that justice may be upheld, peace preserved, and the weak defended. Grant wisdom to all leaders, and bring the peoples of the world to know that You alone are God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, remember all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially the sick, the grieving, the lonely, the anxious, and all who cry to You in distress. Sustain those who feel surrounded by fear, pain, or despair. According to Your gracious will, bring them healing, relief, and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P God of all comfort, as we wait at the tomb and prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, teach this congregation to be still before You. Quiet our hearts, calm our fears, and give us holy rest in Your promises, that we may await Easter not with anxiety or distraction, but with confidence in the victory of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, keep us from hardness of heart and from living for human passions. Since Your Son suffered in the flesh for our salvation, lead us to live in repentance, fervent love, and sober prayer, redeeming the time and loving one another earnestly as we await the joy of Your resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ. Keep us in the same true faith, and bring us at last with all Your saints into the blessed rest and glorious resurrection of the righteous. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

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

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(We are seated.)

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”

#634

“O Perfect Life of Love”

#452

(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.

NUNC DIMITTIS


C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,




which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

(Tune: "The Day of Resurrection")

"O Heavenly Choirs Be Joyful"

**O heav'nly choirs be joyful, the triumph song ring out!
The King has won the vict'ry; creation raise a shout.
His light, its radiance brilliant, has banished darkness' reign;
Let all the faithful praise Him and sing the glad refrain.**

**Thanks be to God, the Father, and to the Paschal Lamb,
For our release from bondage to sin and all its shame.
This night has Christ arisen, creation dawns anew;
Such love beyond all telling demands our praises true.**

POSTLUDE

"O Heavenly Choirs Be Joyful"

arr. Henry Gerike