



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Transfiguration of our Lord
February 15, 2026

Introduction

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

Overview

Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost and found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground. Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

WORDS OF WELCOME
PRELUDE

Days of Elijah

Choir

The Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 116

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

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

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN Shine, Jesus Shine

ELW #671

*GREETING

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

C And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: **Exodus 24:12-18**

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. 14 To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he

called to Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: **Psalm 2** (read responsively)

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

1 Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?

3 "Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

**4 God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

5 Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

**6 "As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

9 You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

**10 And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

11 Submit to the Lord with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

**12 lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of
wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

16 We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW # 172
(2 times)

***GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." 8 And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sr. Marianne Brock

SERMON

Sr. Marianne Brock

*HYMN OF THE DAY Jesus on the Mountain Peak ELW # 317

*NICENE CREED

ELW p.126

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve especially *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachel Benkovic, Richard Deutsch, Rose Hoover, Tracy Keene, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, and Sally Schonewolf.*
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

*PEACE

ELW p. 128

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC Contemplation on Beautiful Savior

Bell Choir

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY HYMN This Little Light of Mine

ELW# 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p.129

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

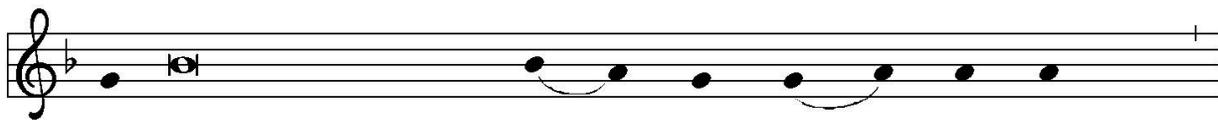
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

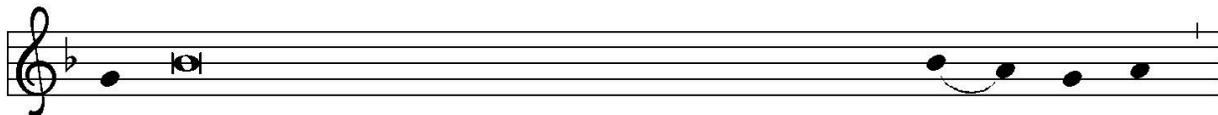
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

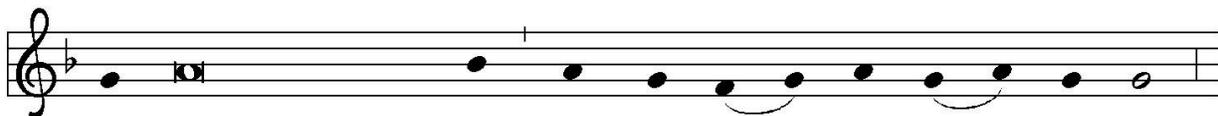
*PREFACE



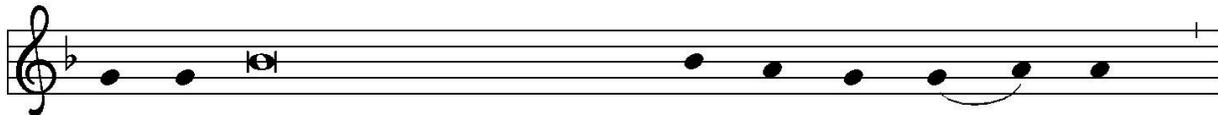
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



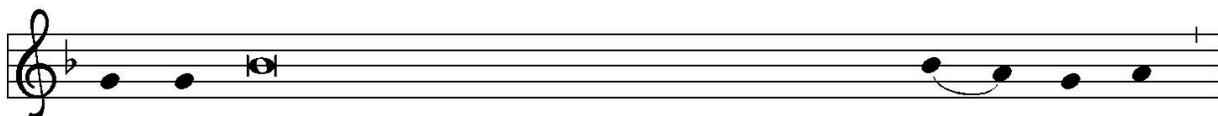
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



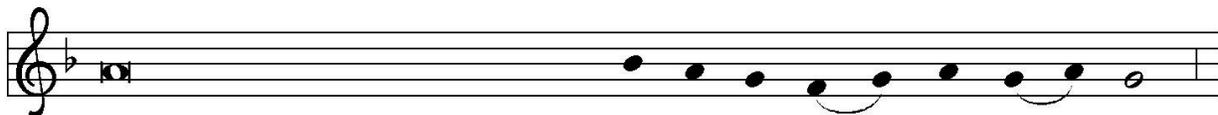
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



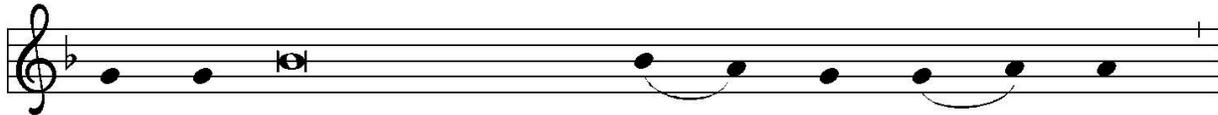
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



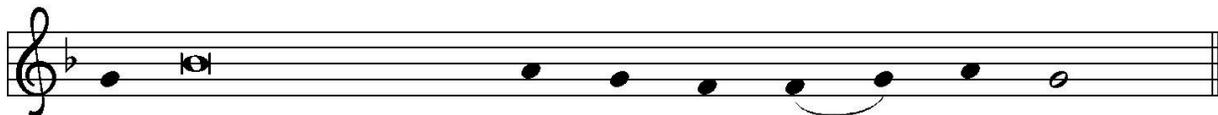
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.



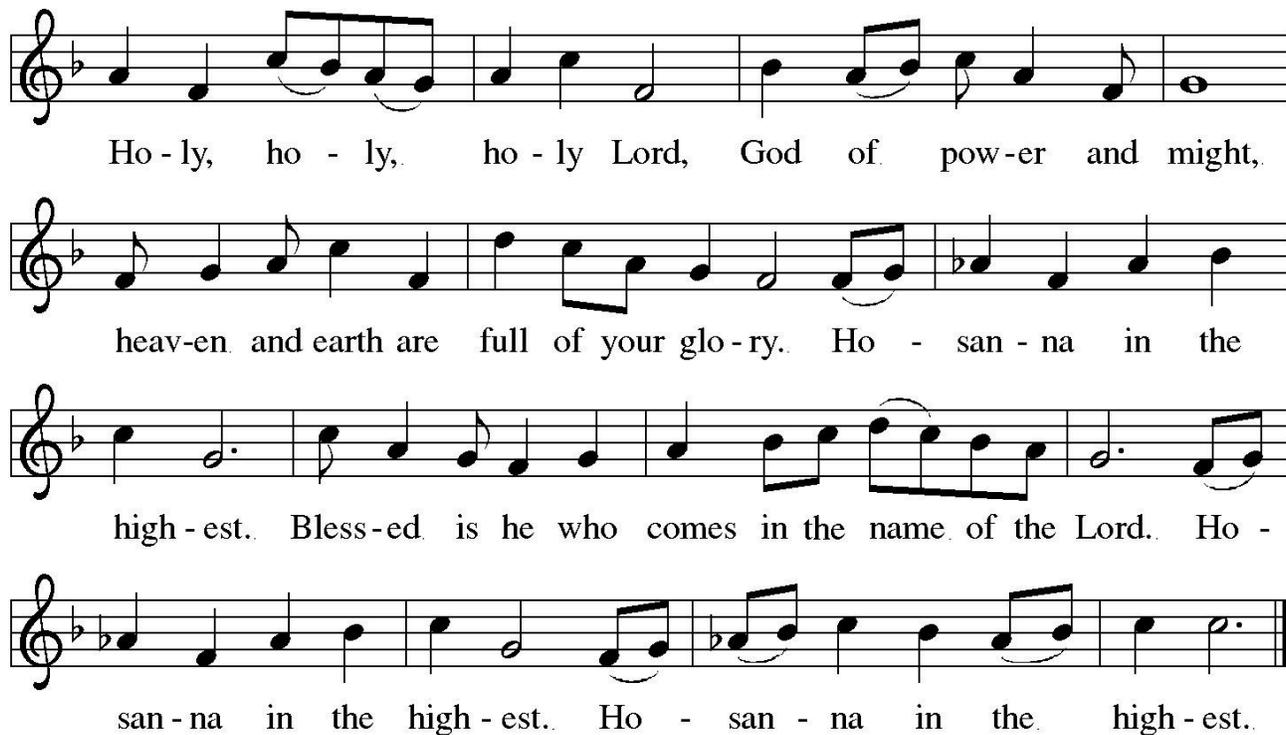
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.112

P 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.

*SHARING THE MEAL

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

ELW p.135

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW# 661

How Good, Lord, to be Here

ELW# 315

(vs 1,2 & 5)

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

In Thee Is Gladness

ELW# 867

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Juliet Mitton

Thank you, Sr. Marianne Brock for presiding over worship today, you are a blessing to us.

We appreciate Deb Dillane and Weston Hawkins for sharing their musical talent with us this morning. Thank you.

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Prelude - "Days of Elijah" words & music - Robin Mark arr. Jack Schrader @1996 2006 Daybreak Music, Ltd., Hope Publishing Co. Choir

Gathering Hymn - "Shine, Jesus, Shine" ELW #671 words & music Graham Kendrick @1987 Make Way Music, admin Music Services

Gospel Acclamation - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of the Day - "Jesus on the Mountain Peak" ELW #317 BETHOLD words - Brian Wren @1995, Hope Pub. Co. music - Mark Sedio @2006 Augsburg Fortress

Special Music - "Contemplation on Beautiful Savior" arr. Matthew Compton @2018 Agape - Div. Of Hope Publishing Co. #2856 - Bell Choir

Offertory Hymn - "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677 PUBLIC DOMAIN words & music - African American Spiritual

Sanctus - "Holy, Holy, Holy" p. 130, setting 2, ELW

Distribution of Communion - Lamb of God, p.135, ELW, setting 2 "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661 words - Katherine Hankey music - William Fischer PUBLIC DOMAIN

"How Good, Lord, to be Here!" ELW #315 POTSDAM (vs. 1,2 & 5) PUBLIC DOMAIN

Sending Hymn - "In Thee Is Gladness" ELW #867 PUBLIC DOMAIN arr. @1969 Concordia Publishing House

Postlude - Juliet Mitton

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For pastoral care, please reach out to the church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at stpetershighspire240@gmail.com. You can also call Patrick Hawkins at 717-903-2987.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God by Bob and Kay Sutch in honor of their family.

Worship Participants for February 15, 2026

Presiding Minister	Sr. Marianne Brock
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Lector	Helene Hoch

Worship Participants Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Cindy Brommer
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Lector	Mary Hunt

Worship Participants for February 22, 2026

Presiding Minister	Rev Gail Wolling
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Lector	Doris Reynolds

CHOIR REHEARSALS

This Wednesday, February 18th, there will be rehearsal for the Praise Team after our Ash Wednesday service. Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord through music! Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

All are Welcome Bible Study

The All are Welcome Bible Study meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com

Update to Service time

As discussed at the Annual meeting, we will welcome Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt as our Interim Pastor starting March 15, 2026. Our service will begin at 11:00AM starting this Sunday also.

"Souper" Bowl Time! - February 8 & 15

Share your Super Bowl spirit with our seminarians!!! We will be collecting monetary donations Super Bowl Sunday, February 8 and Sunday, February 15 for the food pantry at the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Look for the large soup pot with the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks logos to place your donations. Giant Food Store and ALDI Grocery Store gift cards will be purchased for the food pantry at the Gettysburg campus, giving the coordinators the ability to accommodate dietary restrictions and purchase perishable foods for the seminary students.

Please write "Souper" Bowl Sunday on the memo line on your check payable to St Peter's Lutheran Church and, for cash donations, write "Souper" Bowl Sunday on the envelope with your name (and your envelope # if you want this to be included in your giving statement).

Again, thank you for your generosity as we reach out beyond our community. Any questions, see Clydene Strauss.

Come to church and stay for fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.