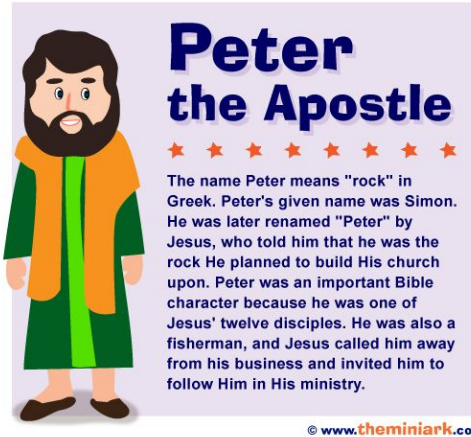


+ Our Lenten Journey to the Cross & The Empty Tomb” Jesus & The Apostle Peter



+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg + Fourth Sunday in the Season of Lent+ March 19, 2023+ Worship 9:55 a.m.

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music
Ushers LaDonna Schemm & Eddie Wessel + Worship

TODAY'S KEY PASSAGES OF HOLY SCRIPTURE +

+ NOTE: Today, we have placed the key Bible passages on a separate sheet in the worship bulletin. They deal with our Pastor's message concerning the relationship of Jesus and Simon Peter a key disciple of his. The lesson are found on the blue sheets in the worship bulletins.

Musical Prelude Let us prepare for the worship of God by listening. + God is still speaking +

Our Worship Themes

Today March 19th Message "Jesus has to deal with Simon Peter who is up one day and down the next" – a reflection of many of us!

Next Sunday March 26th Message "Jesus has to deal with the crowds who one day are with him shouting "Hosanna" and the next day "Crucify-Kill Him!"

Sunday, April 2nd Palm/Passion Sunday + The Beginning of Holy Week

Congregation Singing "Worship & Song"

Call to Worship (Unison)

We gather this day as the people of God
We Lift up our voices and call out to God.
We cry out, believing that God hears us.

Let us come together as one people and wait for God.

Believing and trusting that God is still speaking and we need to listen..

Surely God's presence is here with us now.

We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

This day as we gather we celebrate the power of God that restores us.

Come, sisters and brothers, let us worship the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymns “Maker, In Whom We Live” #88 U.M. Hymnal

Important Reminder

We are asking all of our people to spend some “God-time” each day. Talking to God!
Listening to God!
Please read from all three of our (free) devotional booklets.
We have additional copies. Please use them!

We Welcome our Children

Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God’s children.

“The Faith We Sing” (black songbook) #2233 “This is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God’s Word, bread, and cup, prayer and song. This is where children belong.”

Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles Creed” – UM Hymnal #881 (Traditional Version)

Video “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord” (Craig Courtney)

Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings

Offering Response (Hymnal #94) “Praise God” with Alleluias

Anthem “The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference” + The Faithful Few “

“’Twas a life filled with aimless desperation, without hope walked the shell of a man. Then a hand with a nail-print stretched down ward, just one touch then a new life began. And the old rugged cross made the difference, in a life bound for heartache and defeat.”

Message Please turn to the page “Morning Scripture Lessons” found in this worship bulletin.

Morning Prayer and our Lord’s Prayer (Unison) Prayer Leader Leslie Gabler

+ Our Prayer Song + “People Need the Lord” (black) #2244 “The Faith We Sing”

As darkness gives way to light

and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today as the people of God to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,

stirring beneath the soil,

We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,

We affirm our identity, we claim our security,

(Unison)

(Let us pray the “Our Father” together)

Our Father, which 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 that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Message “Please turn to the page “Morning Scripture Lessons found in this worship bulletin.

Don't Forget

**Today is the LAST day you can order Easter Lilies.
Reservations forms are in the vestibule or see Joan Tighe!**

Closing Lenten Hymn “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” UM Hymnal #294

Closing Words – Sending Forth (In Unison)

This morning, we have sung, we have prayed,
we have worshiped together.
Now we go back out into the world.
We came together to build relationships, relationships with each other,
and our relationship with Jesus.
We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections
Ready to love and to serve.
Ready to carry God's love to the world.
As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,
let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.
Go with God, as the people of God.
So be it! Amen

We Sing Together “God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide uphold
you. With his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet. Till we meet at Jesus' feet, till we meet, till we meet. God
be with you till we meet again.”

Luke 10.23-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10.36-37

(Jesus said) “Which of these three do you think was the neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? The lawyer said ‘the one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do like wise.’”

“All of us, at one time or other, need help. Whether we’re giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That’s one of the things that connects us as neighbors—In our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.”

Fred Rogers

On the patient floors of our local hospital are signs reading “No Passing Zone.” This means to health care workers if you see a patient’s light on you need to stop. Then find out if you can be of help or if you need to call someone to meet the patient’s need. The simple act of stopping means you care. We are reminded of a story that Jesus told. A man (Jewish) took a trip through a rather dangerous territory. Robbers grabbed him. Beat him. Took his clothing and valuables and left him for dead. Two of his friends (same religion) came upon him but when they saw the blood they quickly passed by on the other side. The next person to arrive on the scene was his mortal enemy (a Samaritan-different religion).

To his surprise the man not only stopped to help but took him to the local hospital where he offered to pay the costs. Jesus closed the story by asking “who was the neighbor to the injured man?” The response was “the one who showed mercy.” The man who stopped to help did not see an enemy, or a person of another religion or color or financial background. His only concern was to show mercy.

As followers of Jesus we are called to show mercy to someone, anyone, in need or distress. We become one in caring even if it putting our own life at risk. The Lenten season is our challenge to stop, take the barriers down, and become part of the caring community. Jesus reminds us “go and do likewise.”

Prayer. Most merciful God, help me to look beyond all of the things that divide and separate. Even in my busyness help to see, stop and reach out especially to others in need. Remind me that being a neighbor is more than simply living beside or down the block from another person. Being a neighbor means showing mercy. With the presence of your Spirit I will have that strength. Amen.

Judy & Lou Piel



Sunday, March 19, 2023 Jesus and His Follower/Apostle Simon Peter

Simon Peter If there was one person who stands out in the three-year ministry Of Jesus it would be Simon called Peter.

1. Matthew 4.18 “As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, Follow me and I will make you fish for people. Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

2. Matthew 16.13-20 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is? And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**

Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah**, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.**

3. Matthew 21. 16-21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And **Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him**, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you. But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me**, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Mark 14.26-31 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee. **Peter said to him, “Even though all fall away**, I will not. Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times. But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

4. Matthew 26.69-70ff Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. **But Peter denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about,"** he said.
- Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"
- Three times he denies knowing Jesus.
5. John 21.15 ff When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"** He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs. A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep. He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.
6. Acts of the Apostles 10.44-48 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. **The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.** Then Peter said, Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days."
7. Acts of the Apostles 15.1-5 **Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**
8. And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, **they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters.** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

**Time and time again he is mentioned as the leading follower
Fisherman (could he read and write?)**

Married

Jesus heals the mother-in-law

Author of ? 1 & 2 Peter (Epistles)

Mark's Gospel – story by Simon Peter

Leader of Jerusalem Church (Peter and James (brother of Jesus))

At first stressed Judaism rules before converting.

No early role for Gentiles (Role of Apostle Paul)

Forced by faith to accept Gentiles as they are

Mentioned many times “first”

First disciple to Easter morning tomb

Mount of Transfiguration (Peter, James and John)

At the same time

Jesus tells his closest disciples that we will be betrayed and killed

Peter tells him if everyone else turns away I will be with you

I will never betray you – I've got your back

And yet end he denies knowing Jesus – 1-2-3 times

At one point Jesus asks the disciples who do people say I am

After debate

Peter says “You are the Messiah, the long awaited one”

Jesus tells them about the days to come and his coming death

Peter says no way – Messiah's don't die that way

Jesus – get behind me you are acting like Satan