

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**May 1,**

**2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Third Sunday of  
Easter**

Welcome





# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Following COVID safety protocols

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel



**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

**PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

**Check or Cash.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Vanco GivePlus App.** Contact the church office to set up regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

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# St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie

Order of Worship for Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 10:00am

Third Sunday after Easter

St. Peter's UCC 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE**

“St Catherine”

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jenn Schneider

*Those who are able please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: In 1867 our church founders gathered to praise God in the German language and affiliated with the state Lutheran church in Germany.

**C: We are so different now, but we do have this in common:  
We of Saint Peter's in Skokie still praise the Lord!**

P: Our forebears ever since then have undergone things they could have never expected, and they kept the faith. We are their heirs in our time, too.

**C: The Bible says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. On the Lord we can depend no matter what comes our way, for Christ has been raised! Amen.**

**OPENING RESPONSE: "Come into His Presence"**

SSB #15

Come in - to\_\_\_ His pres - ence with thanks-giv-ing in\_\_\_ your heart and give Him

praise, and give Him praise; Come in - to\_\_\_ His pres-ence with thanks-

giv - ing in\_\_\_ your heart,yourvoic-es raise, your voic-es raise. Give

glo - ry\_\_\_ and hon - or\_\_\_ and pow - er un - to

Him,\_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, the name a-bove all names.\_\_\_\_

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: In Chapter 4 of The Revelation, the four living creatures and 24 elders in John's heavenly vision sing to the Lamb on the throne, "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation" (4:9). You and I are among the innumerable saints for whom the Lamb of God, Jesus, was given up on the Cross, to ransom, or bring us back, into the realm of God. We did not stop wandering out of this yet, however, since we're so human. Please let us prepare ourselves for confessing our falling short to the One who has lovingly done what we could not to, to bring us back forgiven, by reading the prayer silently to ourselves, and then with integrity, pray together.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: On this Anniversary Sunday, and during the pandemic, prayers of confession can come hard, as life has been hard in a lot of ways. Yet we as individuals and as St. Peter's, even while doing what we think is all we can do, still admit to sins of omission. We could have stood up more for unarmed victims of brutality and gun violence. We could have shared our faith with others more. We could have engaged more with those working to non-violently heal the centuries-long effects of racism, and join those trying to spread truth about the lies about Christianity that circulate in our society. We could have been more attentive and responsive to attacks upon persons in the LGBTQ + community. We could have prayed more for this country, our leaders, and our church. Forgive us these, and any other ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! Create in us new hearts, after Yours; for it is in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.**

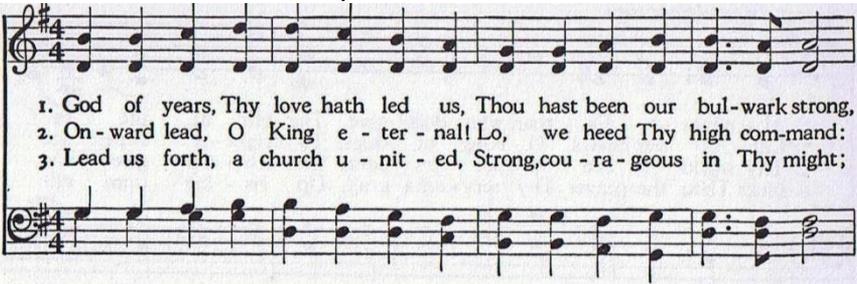
**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: I use it as a benediction; let us now hear it as words of assurance: “Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and forever” (Jude 24, 25). It is the grace of God in Jesus Christ crucified and risen which, and who, is able to make us stand before the glory of the Holy One without blemish, because we have been forgiven and brought back where we belong. Let the congregation join me in joyful reply and cry out,

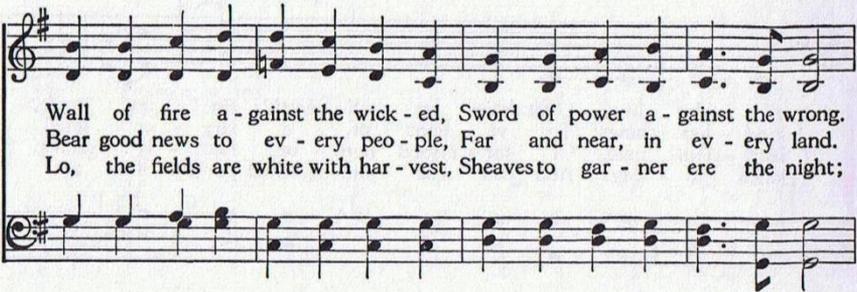
**A: Alleluia! Praise be to God! Amen!**

## HYMN "God of Years, Thy Love Hath Led Us"

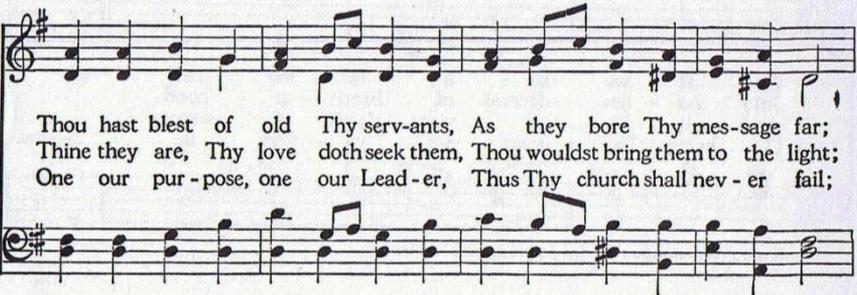
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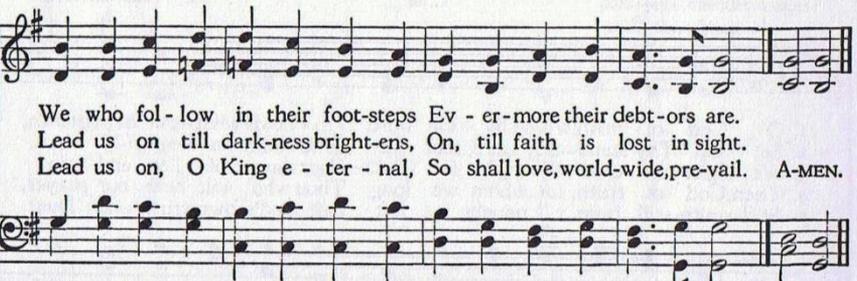
1. God of years, Thy love hath led us, Thou hast been our bul-wark strong,  
 2. On-ward lead, O King e - ter - nal! Lo, we heed Thy high com-mand:  
 3. Lead us forth, a church u - nit - ed, Strong, cou - ra - geous in Thy might;



Wall of fire a - gainst the wick - ed, Sword of power a - gainst the wrong.  
 Bear good news to ev - ery peo - ple, Far and near, in ev - ery land.  
 Lo, the fields are white with har - vest, Sheaves to gar - ner ere the night;



Thou hast blest of old Thy serv-ants, As they bore Thy mes-sage far;  
 Thine they are, Thy love doth seek them, Thou wouldst bring them to the light;  
 One our pur - pose, one our Lead - er, Thus Thy church shall nev - er fail;



We who fol - low in their foot-steps Ev - er-more their debt - ors are.  
 Lead us on till dark-ness bright-ens, On, till faith is lost in sight.  
 Lead us on, O King e - ter - nal, So shall love, world-wide, pre-vail. A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Sterba

Old Testament:

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 13-15

Gospel:

John 21:1-19

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

*Those who are able please stand.*

### **AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE**

P: Article III of our Church Constitution states our purpose, or ‘Objective.’ In renewing and re-affirming our objective as St. Peter’s U.C.C., as servants of Christ, as members and active friends of St. Peter’s U.C.C., please join me in saying it aloud together:

**A: “This church has as its objective the development and maintenance in this community of a Christian congregation on an evangelical basis, for worship and the promotion of the Christian life, and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God by all available means.” To this objective, to this gospel and to this Triune God we reaffirm and renew our covenant. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **GLORIA CREATOR** *Sung to the traditional tune # 493*

**A: Glory to our Creator,  
And to our Christ and to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
And ever shall be; world without end!  
Amen, Amen**

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY**

"Of Joshua, Jesus, and Turning 155"

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****Exhortation and Invitation****Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

RESPOND

153

**Eat of This Bread**

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
 come and be fed, come now and dine.  
 Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
 here all are fed, here all may dine.

Chords:  $\text{E}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{A}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{Ddim}$ ,  $\text{Gm}$ ,  $\text{Cm}$ ,  $\text{Fm}$ ,  $\text{Fm}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{B}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{B}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{Ddim}$ ,  $\text{Gm}$ ,  $\text{B}^{\flat}$ ,  $\text{E}^{\flat}$

**The Words of Institution****Participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion****Closing Prayer***Followed by ...***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil;  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
 and the glory forever. Amen**

*Those who are able please stand.***HYMN**

"We Look To You, O Jesus"

*Sing to the tune of "The Day of Resurrection."***We look to you, O Jesus — in faith, our Pioneer —**

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**For you have gone before us and brought your people here.  
You showed us all God's kingdom, you gave us work to do;  
In death you went before us; for life, we turn to you.**

**Through times of strife and anguish, through times of joy and  
grace,  
Through conflicts with our culture, you've brought us to this place;  
And still your world is changing, and still we seek to be  
A church reformed, reforming in faithful ministry.**

**Perfecter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each day;  
We work for peace and justice, we worship, learn and pray —  
And witnesses surround us, a host of saints above,  
As we continue sharing the joy of your great love.**

*Text: Copyright © 2006 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission.*

## **CHARGE**

**P:** Seek first the realm of God and God's righteousness.

**C:** **As for us and our houses, we shall serve the Lord.**

**P:** Act with faith, believe with humility,

**C:** **Love one another and love those whom nobody loves,**

**A:** **Serve the Lord!**

## **BENEDICTION**

**C:** **Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE** "Nun Danket Alle Gott"

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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## **FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Dan Guenther
LIVESTREAM	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13, NRSV). Welcome to worship.

**Today as you can tell Saint Peter’s United Church of Christ celebrates 155 years of service and worship in Skokie!**

When it began, we were Saint Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Western Synod of North America in Niles Center, IL, established in 1867. Later after a merger we were in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and in the 1950s, after another merger, became part of the United Church of Christ. We thank God for everyone who has been a blessed part of our journey over the decades, and for those we have had the opportunity to minister with and to. Alleluia!

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today’s hybrid worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch!

**About Communion:** All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord’s Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter’s U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade). IF you are with us in person, we hope you took one of the pre-filled Communion cups (juice) with the wafer on top. When the Pastor prompts us, please peel off the top layer of the cup covering to get at the wafer, then pull the wafer off to eat. If

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you are worshipping with us on-line, when prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for this, take and eat as prompted; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera).

**The Spring Craft Fair is this coming Saturday!** It is Saturday, May 7th, open from 10-3. See your Announcer, or the church's Facebook posts about it, for more details. You can also ask Beth Lanford or Wendy Svenson. Please come, buy some seasonal crafts, enjoy some church popcorn, and support this fundraiser / outreach!

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! You can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated on the pew information cards. Thank you very much for giving!

**Bunco prizes are needed now!** We CANNOT wait until May 21<sup>st</sup> when BUNCO will fill up our gymnasium once again. You can help make it a huge success by donating a new item for folks to raffle for. Talk to your employer as well for a donation! Carol will promote all businesses that donate during the event.

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# Our People

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**Thank you to everyone who contributed last month** to the financial need of meeting our commitment to the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest. Yesterday would have been our day to serve! Our next month to serve is the last Saturday in July.

**The Lenten Study** of The Third Reconstruction finishes this Wednesday, May 4th, at 6:45 PM on Zoom.

**Pastor Richard would like to hold a New Members / Seekers class** soon. Will those interested in this please let him know, so we can begin creating a schedule that will fit everyone? Thank you!

**Your church's Office Manager Laura Olson** is off for the next three days; Sharon Johnson is kind enough to agree to be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Laura is back in on Thursday, May 5th.

**Having birthdays this week are:** David Rees, H. Dayle Zelenka, Molly Uchtman, Laura (Brzozowski) Medaglia, Bill Karol, Dale Todd, Ken Paige and Dianna Pappadakis-Haun. We wish God's blessings on all of them!

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!** There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

**Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms-** iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**May 1, 2022**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 9:1-6**

**The Way Forward**

Saul, the persecutor of God's people became Paul, champion of the living Christ, after a powerful singular experience on the road to Damascus. For Silver Lake Award honoree Valerie Tutson, the powerful, singular moment that Christ came alive for her was not on the road, but in the pews of her childhood church.

Valerie Tutson is a storyteller by trade and her eyes widen with joy when she tells the story of the first time she saw a performance by some of her church friends after they returned from a camp experience at Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC), a United Church of Christ facility. She recounts that in seeing those young women - dressed in plastic garbage bags meant to represent frog costumes and singing about the plagues and pharaoh - her life was changed forever. From then on, scripture stories were not merely words on the page, but a living breathing story, one that became hers to tell with creativity and wonder. After that she attended camp as soon, and as often, as she could.

“Silver Lake has been a part of my life since I was 11 years old,” Val said. “Without a doubt, Silver Lake has helped to shape the

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person I am in the world. It has always been a place where my life, my creative work, and my faith get explored and braided together. I tell people all over the world that all the good stuff I learned about life and caring for God's people I learned and keep learning at camp!" She has been a camper or staff member of the camp since 1977.

SLCC Executive Director, the Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, says that even many decades after her "come to Jesus moment" in the pews of her home church, "It is difficult to be in the presence of Val and not know that God is alive and loves you to the deepest core of who you truly are."

Do you have a "road to Damascus" moment? How does it continue to inform your life to this day?

Information about the Silver Lake Award adapted from the Silver Lake Conference Center web site:

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/newsdetail/valerie-tutson-recognized-with-4th-annual-silver-lake-award-14029263>

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**Joshua 24:1-3a, 13-15**

“Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors— and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.”

*After going over their history with God which has brought them to this moment, about to go to their new tribal lands in Canaan, Joshua said:*

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

**John 21:1-20**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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.

“Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."