

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Now the Feast of Celebration

January 19, 2025 – 8:45 am.

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(P) Pastor; (A) Worship Assistant; (\*) Please stand as you're able;  
Congregation responses in **BOLD**

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The CHURCH'S GATHERING

WELCOME *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*

+ What are you praising God for today? +

PRELUDE: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" –J. Brahms

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: We bless the † one God, our creator,
our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, we confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN: # 312 "Jesus, Come! For We Invite You"**

***GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

P: The love of Christ, the wisdom of God,
and the light of Spirit is with you all.

And also with you.

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

HYMN of PRAISE: # 167 "Now the Feast and Celebration"

GOD'S WORD

READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

A: This is a responsive reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 62nd chapter.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

**until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.**

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

**and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.**

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;**

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;

**for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.**

For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,

**and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

We give our thanks to God.

***WELCOMING the GOSPEL: "Listen, God is Calling" stanza 1**

Refrain
Leader All



Lis-ten, lis-ten, God is call-ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
of - fer - ing for - give-ness, com - fort, and joy.

(Jesus gave his mandate:) **share the good news**
(that he came to save us) **and set us free.**

***HOLY GOSPEL: John 2:1-11**

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 2nd chapter.

We give glory to you, O Lord.

One day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

We give praise to you, O Christ.

***BLESSING the GOSPEL: "Listen, God is Calling" stanza 3**

Refrain
Leader All

Lis-ten, lis-ten, God is call-ing, through the Word in-vit-ing,
of-fer-ing for-give-ness, com-fort, and joy.

(Help us to be faithful,) **standing steadfast,**
(walking in your precepts,) **led by your Word.**

***HYMN of the DAY: # 488 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"**

MESSAGE: Rev. Emily Ewing

(silence for reflection follows)

CHORAL RESPONSE: "All Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

-M. Vulpius, setting L. Lenel

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. Comfort those affected by flooding and wildfires. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for our neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need.

P: We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lue, Lori, our at-home worshippers, Joe, Lynn and Jack, God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints especially Henry, Bishop of Uppsala. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

JESUS' SUPPER

PEACE

Having been reconciled to God through our Savior Jesus, we are reconciled to one another and can share in God's *shalom*. The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**
(please stand and greet each other gently)

RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN: # 465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

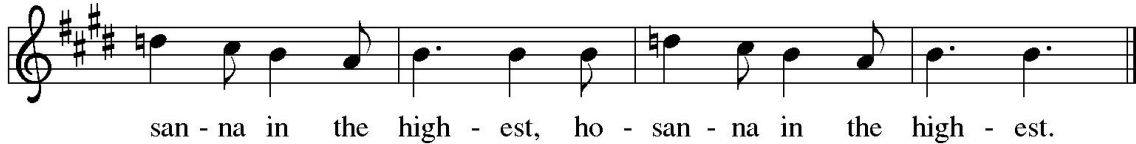
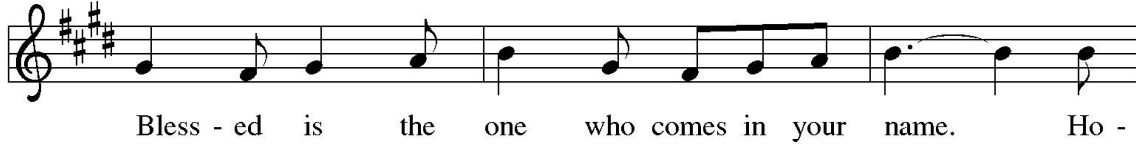
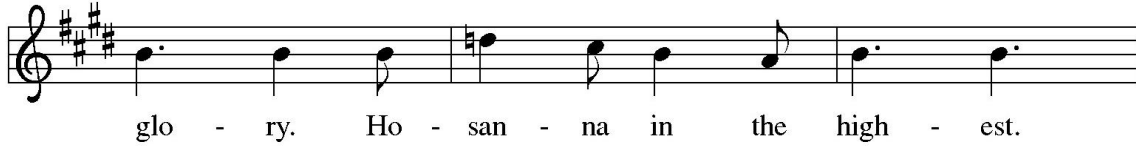
P: Christ the Morningstar is with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts in Spirit. **Our hearts go up to God.**
We give honor and glory to the Holy One.

We give thanks and praise to Abba God.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who is your light made manifest to all the nations. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the church triumphant, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



***THANKSGIVING at the TABLE**

We bless you, most holy and present God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful Word you created all things.

**Through the prophets you called your people
to be a light to the nations.**

We bless you for Jesus, your Son.

**He is your Light, shining in our darkness,
and revealing to us your mercy and might.**

In the night in which he was handed over, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
Do this and remember me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup that is poured out for you, and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sin, is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.

So, remembering Christ's preaching and healing,
his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,
**we await that day when all the universe will rejoice
in your holy and life-giving light.**

Come, holy Jesus.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

**we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.**

Come, holy Spirit.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Waiting in hope for Christ's appearing, we pray as he taught us.

**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**

***BREAKING the BREAD**

Bread is broken. **Love is shared.**

Sharing Communion *Please take time for meditation & prayer.*

SONG during SUPPER: # 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

SPIRIT'S SENDING

PRAYER for MISSION

A: Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Nourishing God, **at this table
you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen
us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of
liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of
Christ we pray, Amen**

MISSION UPDATE: *opportunities for learning & service*

***BLESSING**

P: Please stand as you're able to receive the blessing.
God's Spirit, dwelling with us in our hearts
and in our minds, bless † you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.



***SENDING HYMN: # 576 "We All Are One in Mission"**

***SENDING into MISSION**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

We will Learn God's Truth.

We will Share Spirit's Healing.

We will Follow Jesus' Way.

P: We go with Christ's peace
to love and serve all!

Amen. Yes, we will!

POSTLUDE: "Toccata in g-minor" —J. Pachelbel

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At the time of this writing, please keep the following in your prayers: ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, those hospitalized or at home recuperating, and our at-home worshippers.

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Joey Mills on his January 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

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Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of the 9th birthday of Chelsey Marie Volz,
on her January 19th birthday.
Given by her grandparents, Lois and Fred Volz.

In Honor of Joey Mills' January 23rd birthday.
Given by the Sykes family.

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Attendance for January 12, 2025: 35

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Helping with today's worship

Worship Assistant: Don Bayne Usher: Kathy Shull

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Thank You to Rev. Emily Ewing for presiding over this week's worship while Pr. Lans is away.

The church office and school will be closed on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday.

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the back of the church.

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for the 8:45 am. worship on 2/2 & 16 and 2nd sponsorship for 2/23, and bulletin for 2/9 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for the 10:15 am. worship on 2/2 & 16 (contact Nancy Barnes). **PLEASE NOTE:** In 2025, pricing on floral arrangements will increase to be more in-line with pricing from the florist. Until pricing is finalized, please "pay as you go" using current pricing for floral sponsorships. Also, when you return the vases for Rose Vase sponsorships, the church receives a \$3 discount!

Studio Apartment for Rent: First floor of a two-story brick house. Studio has two-rooms, includes full bathroom and a full kitchen. It has a private laundry room/utility room and a parking pad. Rent includes utilities: heat, air conditioning, water & internet. Security Deposit of \$1,250 and first month's rent of \$1,250 due up front. Located in Parkville. Interested: 410-444-5171.

For every NEW regular deposit account opened at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton branch only) St. Peter's Lutheran Church receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130 or go to EasternSavingsBank.com.

News from St. Peter's Elementary School

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year will begin in mid-January. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!