

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Now the Feast of Celebration
January 26, 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: # 843**
"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

***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.* Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Psalm 19:7-14

A: This is a responsive reading from Psalm 19.

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation

of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

We give our thanks to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

A: This is a reading from Paul's 1st letter to the church in Corinth, the 12th chapter.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say,

"Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

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: Luke 4:14-21**

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 4th chapter.

We give glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their houses of worship and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, Jesus went to the place of worship on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because God has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

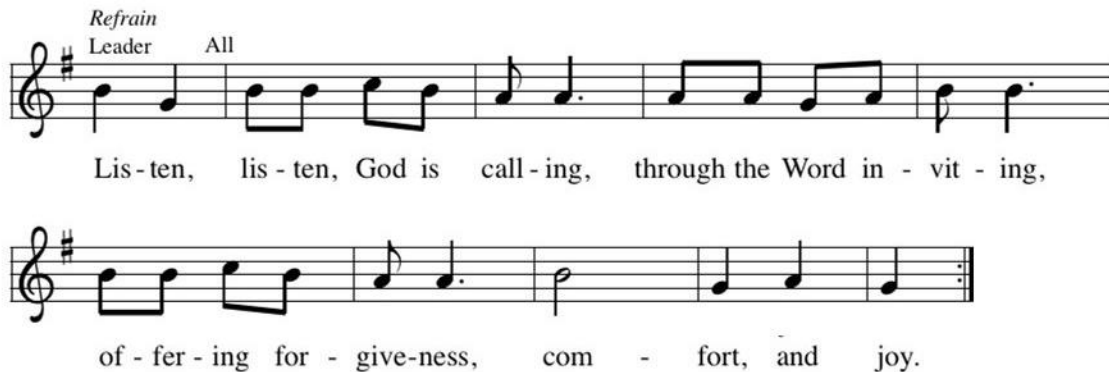
And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the place of worship were fixed on him. Then Jesus began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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: # 311 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"**

MESSAGE: Rev. Emily Ewing

(silence for reflection follows)

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

-M. Vulpius, setting L. Lenel

APOSTLES CREED

A: With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection † of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

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.*

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. Give peace and comfort to those still dealing with the aftermath of floods and wildfires and those still battling.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery.

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.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church: Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, and beloved friends and family who have died, as we carry them in our hearts. 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
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***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: # 487 "What Feast of Love"

SPIRIT'S SENDING

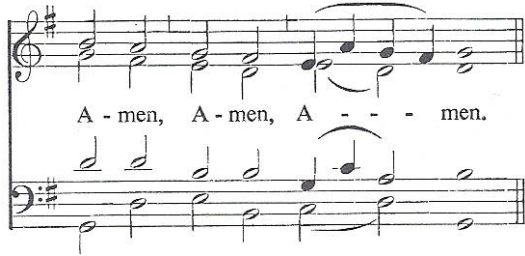
PRAYER for MISSION

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: # 551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"**

***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: "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" —P. Manz

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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 Ashley Heinbaugh's  
and Alexander Smith's January birthdays.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

In Celebration of Michael  
and Lucas Barnes' birthdays.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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

In Loving Memory of parents,
Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Matz
and Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dohmeier.
Given by Jerry Dohmeier.

In Loving Memory of husband, Phillip Sacker,
and parents, Catherine and Carl Haug.
Given by wife and daughter, Genevieve Sacker.

In Honor of Jennie on her February 1st birthday.
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

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*Helping with today's worship*

Worship Assistant: Heather Frederick      Usher: Rich Murphy

## ***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

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

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

**February Annual Meeting** to discuss the missions and life of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 23rd. Please plan to attend to find out about exciting upcoming events and plans for St. Peter's church and school!

**Prayers Group:** PRAYERS will keep moving us forward through the winter's chilly blasts! GENEROSITY is our Fruit of the Spirit for February—how great is that for the month of LOVE!? Hmm, how might Christians be generous in the land of plenty?? Bring your chat-worthy ideas on Wednesday, February 5th (11 am.) in cozy Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator accessible). Newbies Welcome!

**Sponsorships Available:** Flowers for the 8:45 am. worship on 2/2 & 16 and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 \$1,250 and first month's rent \$1,250 due up front. Located in Parkville section of Baltimore. 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](http://EasternSavingsBank.com).

## ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School***

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