

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

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**

February 9, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**



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

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

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.* Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-11**

*Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgement against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of God's glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the Sovereign LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

And God said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.'

Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears, and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes  
and listen with their ears  
and comprehend with their minds  
and turn and be healed."

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell the story to the world.*

This is a reading from Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the church in Corinth, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he

appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11**

*Jesus' teachings of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 696 "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"**

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

**MESSAGE: FISHING** (silence for reflection follows)

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

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

God of surprising abundance, you call your people to enter deeply into the world. Equip us to respond to your call, gather up what we have, and offer it to all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, provide protection from the elements and other hazards to all whose work brings them outside: for fishers, ranchers, line workers, and construction crews. Guide us to live carefully alongside the wonders of the land and waters. Stay with all those recovering from fires and flooding, and for the victims of recent plane crashes. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Open the hearts of all leaders, especially those who serve in the armed forces, that they respond to their commission with wisdom and patience. Ensure that all who serve are kept safe in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict especially in the Middle East and Ukraine. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Call our faith communities to do marvelous things. Bless the labor and efforts of this congregation, that we may be a sign of your presence in the world. Help our school to help our families grow in wisdom and knowledge. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Fill with your compassionate presence all who are suffering from addiction, mental illness, injury, or illness of any kind. Draw helpers to their side so that they find relief from their burdens. We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lue, Lori, Joe, Lynn and Jack, Sandy, Clara, Derek and Robyn, George, our at-home worshippers, victims and families of the plane and helicopter crashes, victims of the wildfires in Southern California, .... God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you for those who have courageously gone before us in the faith. May we too show a deep trust in you throughout our lives. 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.**

### **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**

### **WE are SENT to SERVE**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *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. 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

**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. Amen

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

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

**We will Learn God's Truth. We will Share Spirit's Healing.**

**We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen**

*Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.*

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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 my daughter,  
Carol Rook's February 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

In Celebration of Jeff's and Michelle's  
February 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> birthdays.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

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

In Loving Memory of my father, Henry Milke,  
and my brother, Charles Milke.  
Given by Arlene Roth.

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Attendance for February 2, 2025: 34

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

**February Annual Meeting** to discuss the missions and life of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 23rd between services (9:30-10:30 am.). Please plan to attend to find out about exciting upcoming events and plans for St. Peter's church and school!

### **Save the Date! Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Game Day at St. Pete's!**

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for the 8:45 am. worship on 2/16 and 2<sup>nd</sup> altar flower sponsorship for 2/23 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for the 10:15 am. worship on 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 discount!

**LGBTQIA+ and Allies Pot Luck Dinner:** Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206) on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. For more information, call the church at 410-485-7654.

**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.

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

### ***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!

The World's Finest Chocolate sale began on February 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Each bar is \$1. Contact the school at 410-665-7300 to purchase yours!