

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**  
February 16, 2025



**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.* Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make know your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Psalm 1**

This is a responsive reading from Psalm 1.  
Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!  
**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;**

**they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

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

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom God did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the realm of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 754 "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"**

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you  
fills us with sweet delight;  
but sweeter far your face to view  
and rest within your light.
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
nor can the mind recall  
a sweeter sound than your blest name,  
O Savior of us all!
- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,  
O joy of all the meek,  
how kind you are to those who fall!  
How good to those who seek!
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today;  
help us to prize your love;  
grant us at last to hear you say:  
"Come, share my home above."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

**MESSAGE: FAVORED**      *(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.*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lue, Lori, our at-home worshippers, Joe, Lynn and Jack, Sandy, Clara, Derek and Robyn, George, .... God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. 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 Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of my brother, Dave's February 13<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
and In Honor of my brother, Don's February 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Given by their sister, Ruth May.

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Attendance for February 9, 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!

**Prayer Group:** Our 'Fruit' for March is FAITHFULNESS – our good group has thought-provoking chats laced with great humor! How does FAITHFULNESS enhance our lives? Come, hear, and share on Wednesday, March 5 @ 11am. (out by noon!). Change the world with Prayer - You 'Betcha!!  
In His Name, Patty Read & Kathy Shull.

**Lent 2025:** Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th, with Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate with communion at 7 pm. in the church. Lent mid-week services will continue on Wednesdays, at 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel, through April 9th. Our gatherings will be followed by fellowship and lite lunch. If you're staying for lunch, please bring your sandwich, we'll provide the drinks and side dish. Pr. Lans will upload a mid-week message on our YouTube channel and Facebook page in lieu of an evening mid-week service.

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

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 2/23 and 3/30, and bulletins for 3/23 & 30 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 3/2, 16, 23, & 30 (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.

***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 runs through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Each bar is \$1. Contact the school at 410-665-4521 to purchase yours.