

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany ~ Transfiguration of Christ
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

March 2, 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.* Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35**

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

This is a reading from Exodus, the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2**

***Contemporary English Version***

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

This is a reading from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the church in Corinth, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

This wonderful hope makes us feel like speaking freely. We are not like Moses. His face was shining, but he covered it to keep the people of Israel from seeing the brightness fade away. The people were stubborn, and something still keeps them from seeing the truth when the Law is read. Only Christ can take away the covering that keeps them from seeing.

When the Law of Moses is read, they have their minds covered over with a covering that is removed only for those who turn to the Lord. The Lord and the Spirit are one and the same, and the Lord's Spirit sets us free. So our faces are not covered. They show the bright glory of the Lord, as the Lord's Spirit makes us more and more like our glorious Lord.

God has been kind enough to trust us with this work. This is why we never give up. We don't do shameful things that must be kept secret. And we don't try to fool anyone or twist God's message around. God is our witness that we speak only the truth, so others will be sure we can be trusted.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36**

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying.

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 838 "Beautiful Savior"**

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

**MESSAGE: SHINING**                   *(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.*

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts. We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lue, Lori, Joe, George, Tom, the Lynch, Sacker, and Diepold families, our at-home worshippers, .... God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people, especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church, and Genevieve. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. 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**

## **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

### **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, the family of Genevieve Sacker who passed away 2/24, 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 our granddaughter,
Olivia Mills, on her 4th birthday, March 8th.
Love, LaLa and Pop.

Rose Vase

In Loving Memory of
Elmer Diepold for what would have been
his 104th birthday, March 7th.
Given with love from his wife, Ruth.

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

In Loving Memory of Wilhelmina Weinreich  
on her March 3rd birthday.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for February 23, 2025: 36

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**John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788;  
renewers of the church**

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting, and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience while reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, John was perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth-century revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal in the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed a separate status. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies", and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling".

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

**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.

**Game Day at St. Pete's!** Sunday, March 9th at 11:15 am. in the lower level fellowship area. Bring a favorite game. Beverages will be available, it's optional to bring a snack to share.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** are on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Orders and payment are due to the church office by Sunday, March 23rd.

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

**Pancake Breakfast:** Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Parish Hall at Jerusalem (4605 Belair Rd, Baltimore, MD 21206) from 9 am to 1 pm.

**Quarter Auction:** Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave, Baltimore, MD 21206) at noon.

**Pancake Supper:** Celebrate Shrove Tuesday (3/4) at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234) at 6 pm. Bring the family for free pancakes, music, and fun!

**Indoor Flea Market:** March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and April 5 & 6 from 9 am.-noon at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Everything must go!

**Used Book Sale:** March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30 & 10 am. worship services at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Have books you want to donate? Call the office at 410-866-8766.

**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!

We're celebrating Lutheran Schools Week March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> with lots of cool activities each day for our students!

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to SPES March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>! You can shop on-line at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/stpeterselementaryschool> March 3<sup>rd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> or on-site during the week. 25% of every **on-line** purchase during the Fair directly benefits our school! Browse a selection of over 3,000 items! On-line orders ship home and book-only orders over \$25 ship free. Buy One, Get One and 25% Off pricing is not applicable online.

Texas Roadhouse fundraiser night is Wednesday, March 12th. More details to come!