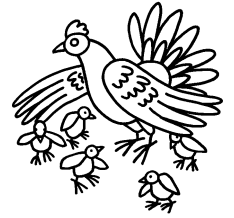


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship
Second Sunday in Lent, March 16, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

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

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's abundant mercy, love, and strength  
are with you always. **And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Philippians 3:12-21** *Contemporary English Version*

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. My friends, I don't feel I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. I run toward the goal, so I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. All of us who are mature should think in this same way. And if any of you think differently, God will make it clear to you. But we must keep going in the direction that we are now headed.

My friends, I want you to follow my example and learn from others who closely follow the example we set for you. I often warned you that many people are living as enemies of the cross of Christ. And now with tears in my eyes, I warn you again that they are headed for hell! They worship their stomachs and brag about the disgusting things they do. All they can think about are the things of this world.

But we are citizens of heaven and are eagerly waiting for our Savior to come from there. Our Lord Jesus Christ has power over everything, and he will make these poor bodies of ours like his own glorious body.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 596 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"**

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain*

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

*Refrain*

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

*Refrain*

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

*Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

**MESSAGE: JOURNEY**                      *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may

set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, ... God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for Christ's forgiveness, as he has 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.* Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, we return to you. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God † the reconciling Spirit, bless you now  
and forever. **Amen**

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,
Susan Johnson's March 14th birthday,
and Ellie Tanasescu's March 25th birthday.
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

In Loving Memory of my father,
Clayton Williams, on his March 19th birthday,
and In Honor of my son, Kevin,
on his March 14th birthday.
Given by Anita Gladstone.

Rose Vase

In Honor of Ruth Diepold's March 20th birthday.
With all my best wishes, Genevieve.

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

In Honor of my Godmother, Lois Volz,  
on her March 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given with love from Donna.

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Attendance for March 9, 2025: 38

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Lent 2025: 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.

Easter Flower Order Forms are on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church or by calling the church office. 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 3/30 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 3/23 & 30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

Prayer Group: AH! The Fruit of the Month is the Spirit of GENTLENESS — Awesome! The spring brings soft, gentle breezes, and the daffodils, tulips, and fragrant hyacinths peek gently through the soil!! As always, we love to hear your thoughts about Gentleness working in our lives. We'll try to be gentle when we pick your brain, lol! Join us on Wednesday, April 2 @ 11 am, in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) followed by a brief Lenten service & lite lunch. Bring a sandwich (drinks & side provided) as we gather around the Lenten table.

Indoor Flea Market: April 5 & 6 from 9 am.-noon at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Everything must go!

Noah at Sight & Sound: Tuesday, June 3rd through Overlea Fullerton Senior Center. Total cost is \$185 and includes show, lunch at Shady Maple (taxes & gratuity included), and transportation. \$75 deposit due by 3/21 and final payment due 4/4. Bus leaves at 8 am. and returns at 5:30 pm. For more information and to reserve a seat call the senior center travel office at 410-887-5220 (M-F 11a -2p) or email overleatravel@gmail.com.

A MEAL FOR A CAUSE-Supporting LMS Compassion Place: Saturday, March 29th at 5:30 pm. at St Paul Lutheran (31 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, 21401). Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased by March 21st. For Tickets call Sharon or Lisa at 410-636-0123. There will be a freewill offering for LMS Compassion Place at the dinner.

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!

Scholastic Book Fair (on-line) runs through Sunday, March 16th. Shop on-line at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/stpeterselementaryschool>. 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.