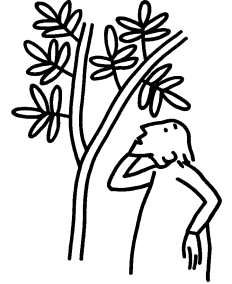


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship
Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 2025

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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.* Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13** *Contemporary English Version*  
*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Friends, I want to remind you that all our ancestors walked under the cloud and went through the sea. This was like being baptized and becoming

followers of Moses. All of them also ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink, which flowed from the spiritual rock that followed them. That rock was Christ. But most of them did not please God. So they died, and their bodies were scattered all over the desert.

What happened to them is a warning to keep us from wanting to do the same evil things. They worshiped idols, just as the Scriptures say, "The people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to dance around." So don't worship idols. Some of those people did shameful things, and in a single day about 23,000 died. Don't do shameful things as they did. And don't try to test Christ, as some of them did and were later bitten by poisonous snakes. Don't even grumble, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as a warning to us. All this was written in the Scriptures to teach us who live in these last days.

Even if you think you can stand up to temptation, be careful not to fall. You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and God will show you how to escape from your temptations.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9** *Contemporary English Version*

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that hold out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

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

About this same time Jesus was told that Pilate had given orders for some people from Galilee to be killed while they were offering sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these people were worse sinners than everyone else in Galilee just because of what happened to them? Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also be killed. What about those eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were worse than everyone else in Jerusalem? Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also die.

Jesus then told them this story:

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. One day he went out to pick some figs, but he didn't find any. So he said to the gardener, "For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree, and I haven't found any yet. Chop it down! Why should it take up space?"

The gardener answered, "Master, leave it for another year. I'll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow. Maybe it will have figs on it next year. If it doesn't, you can have it cut down."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 624 "Jesus, Still Lead On"**

- 1 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;  
and, although the way be cheerless,  
we will follow, calm and fearless;  
guide us by your hand to the promised land.
- 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near,  
let no faithless fears o'ertake us,  
let not faith and hope forsake us;  
safely past the foe to our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,  
when temptations come alluring  
make us patient and enduring;  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;  
heav'nly leader, still direct us,  
still support, console, protect us,  
till we safely stand in the promised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

**MESSAGE: PATIENCE**                      *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.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care

across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Joe, George, Joy and family, our at-home worshippers, ... God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those, like John's, whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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**

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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 Memory of my mother,  
May LeBrun's March 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Patty Read.

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

In Honor of Joey Mills' Christian birthday.
Love, Aunt Kathy and Uncle Steve.

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Attendance for March 16, 2025: 45

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

**Lent 2025:** Lent mid-week services continue on Wednesdays, at 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel, through April 9th. Our gatherings are 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 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. 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 3/30 (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!

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). The egg hunt begins at 11 am. Ages 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to crafts, games, storytime, and the egg hunt – rain or shine! Bring your basket or bag. For more information, call 410-665-1234.

**Clothes Needed:** Lutheran Mission Society's Compassion Place HQ is in need of children's clothes and men's large clothes. Donations can be dropped off at 601 Hammonds Ln., 21225.

**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 & PACE***

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!

Art Show & Science Fair on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. SPES is excited to present artwork and science projects completed by our students! The show and fair follow a brief PACE meeting that begins at 6:30 pm.

Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser night, Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>! More details to come.