

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**PASSION SUNDAY, Procession of Palms, March 29, 2026**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

Lord, ☩ have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

We bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**



**Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**"Hosanna to the Son of David!**  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**  
**Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God Almighty,  
Sovereign, Son, and Spirit, are always with you.

**And also with you.**

As we enter now into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. *A brief silence.* Everlasting God,

in your endless love for the human race you sent our Savior Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **GOD'S WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

This is a responsive reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 50.

The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

**Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.**

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.

**I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;**

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

**The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;**

therefore I have set my face like flint,  
**and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
the One who vindicates me is near.**

Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

**It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?**

#### **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.  
Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name that is above every other name,  
so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**Passion of Christ: Matthew 27:27-54 CEV**

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

This is the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
as the Word was given to Matthew.

**We give glory to you, O Lord.**

The governor's soldiers led Jesus into the fortress and brought together the rest of the troops. They stripped off Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. They made a crown out of thorn branches and placed it on his head, and they put a stick in his right hand. The soldiers knelt down and pretended to worship him. They made fun of him and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" Then they spit on him. They took the stick from him and beat him on the head with it.

When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross. On the way they met a man named Simon who was from Cyrene, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

They came to a place named Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave Jesus some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain. But when Jesus tasted what it was, he refused to drink it.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. Then they sat down to guard him. Above his head they put a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, "So you're the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days! If you are God's Son, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The chief priests, the leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses also made fun of Jesus. They said, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is the king of Israel, he should come down from the cross! Then we will



## **The CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally, Pastor Lans, and Bishops Gohl and Curry. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all peoples. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, Will, Bea, Kathy, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for Hans Nielsen Hauge and all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for Christ's forgiveness, 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 One, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through the Word of God sent into this world, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, & the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless us † now & always. **Amen**

Forgiven and freed in Christ, we share his peace with neighbors & strangers, the poor & outcast – all God’s children. The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824**

Hans Nielsen Hauge was a layperson who began preaching about “the living faith” in Norway and Denmark after a mystical experience that he believed called him to share the assurance of salvation with others. At the time, itinerant preaching and religious gatherings held without the supervision of a pastor were illegal, and Hauge was arrested several times. He also faced great personal suffering: his first wife died, and three of his four children died in infancy.

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**Today's Sponsorships**

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Katie Sykes' birthday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Given by Kathy and Steve Sykes.

A welcoming and preparing for the coming of our Lord. Hosanna!  
Given by Janice Fredrick.

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

In Honor of Mary Lue Frederick.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

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Attendance for Sunday, March 22, 2026: 37

## ***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

### **Holy Week Worship:**

Maundy Thursday (4/2) and Good Friday (4/3): On-site at 7 pm.

Resurrection Sunday (4/5): On-site at 7:00, 8:45 & 10:15 am.

**Easter Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 am. in the lower level open area. All are welcome!

**Easter Holiday Closures:** The church office and SPES will be closed from April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you have a blessed Easter holiday!

**Community Easter Egg Hunt:** Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am. at St. Andrews (1201 Taylor Ave.). Bring the family and friends for an Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny!

**The Small Catechism** Zoom gatherings will continue intermittently throughout the next few months. Upcoming dates are: 4/9 & 16, 5/7, 14, & 21, and 6/4, 11, & 18. All information will be sent out by email on the afternoon of each Zoom date.

**Office Help Needed!** Joy will be away from the church office May 4-8. If you are able to provide coverage 1 or more days that week from 9a-12p, contact Joy at 410-665-7300.

**Line Dancing:** Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Put on your dancing shoes and join the dancers! Everyone is welcome – including beginners. Admission is \$10 at the door and one non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Bottled water is provided with food and snacks available for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. John's new HVAC system.

**The Chosen (season 4):** Tuesdays from 5:15-7 pm., April 14-June 2. Season 4 explores faith, loss, courage, and what it truly means to follow Christ when the way forward is uncertain. Invite a friend and come for a lite dinner and fellowship at 5:15 pm. followed by a viewing of this uplifting series. April 14 & 21 at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206); April 28 at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234); May 5 & 12 at Ascension (7601 York Rd., 21204); May 19 at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234); May 26 & June 2 at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234).

**Quarter Auction:** Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Baskets, candy, gift cards and more! Doors open at 12 and games begin at 1. 2 paddles are \$5 Lunch and snacks for sale. Call 410-485-7654 to RSVP and for information.

**Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am.-2 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Fair offers free resources and information to support health living for the entire family and includes information about: nutrition, mindfulness, physical activity, and community supports. For more information, contact [cphillips@cityneighbors.org](mailto:cphillips@cityneighbors.org), [nrobinson@cityneighbors.org](mailto:nrobinson@cityneighbors.org), or call 410-325-2627.

**Rest & Recharge on the Ridge:** Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-5:30 pm. Hiking, mindfulness, yoga, hymn singing, arts & crafts, hammocks, nature activity guides, and a light meal at 4:30. Mar-Lu-Ridge (3200 Mar Lu Ridge Rd., Jefferson, MD 21755) is hosting this free event for you to find a quiet space to reconnect with nature, engage in a favorite creative hobby & recharge your soul. Email [mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org](mailto:mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org) to RSVP.

**DE/MD Synodical Women's Organization's 37th Annual Convention:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am.-3:30 pm. at Journey of Faith Church (7902 Liberty Rd., Windsor Mill, MD 21244). This year's theme is Under Her Wings - Motherhood in the New Testament. Registration is \$35, due by April 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information and/or to register, call Michele Jecelin at 410-925-2662.

**Afternoon Tea Bus Trip:** Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted by St. John, Brooklyn (226 Washburn Ave., 21225). Tea Trolley Tearoom in Delta, PA with first stop at The Markets of Shrewsbury. Cost \$110 (food, transportation, tax, gratuity and driver tip included). The bus will leave St. John parking lot at 10 am. and return at 5 pm. Information and reservations, contact Leslie at 410-969-0129. Deadline for Reservations and payment in full due by June 14. This is an annual fundraiser to support the programs and ministries of St. John.

**Save the Date:** St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234) will be hosting their annual Summer Music & Arts Camp July 27<sup>th</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am.-3 pm. Registration will be open in mid-late May.

**Secretary Position Available:** Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in Word and PowerPoint. Applicants must also have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others as well as have good communication skills. Interested parties should call St. Matthew Lutheran Church office (410-335-4210).

**Sponsorships Available:** Bulletins on 4/19 (contact the church office).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**Give to St. Peter's On-line!** Did you know that you can make offering donations and sponsorship payments 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. When submitting your donation or payment, you can note what it's for. It's THAT easy!

### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School and PACE***

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Open enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!

**Upcoming:** Open Houses on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 pm. and May 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm. NEW THIS YEAR: Shadow Day on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am.-3 pm. Contact the school to RSVP for these events.