

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
Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6, 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.* Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 3:3-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*



This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. Paul writes: It is we who worship in the Spirit of God, and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh—even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through the faith of Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. My siblings, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:1-8** *Contemporary English Version*

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Six days before Passover Jesus went back to Bethany, where he had raised Lazarus from death. A meal had been prepared for Jesus. Martha was doing the serving, and Lazarus himself was there.

Mary took a very expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair, and the sweet smell of the perfume filled the house.

A disciple named Judas Iscariot was there. He was the one who was going to betray Jesus, and he asked, "Why wasn't this perfume sold for 300 silver coins and the money given to the poor?" Judas did not really care about the poor. He asked this because he carried the moneybag and sometimes would steal from it.

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Jesus replied, "Leave her alone! She has kept this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.  
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### **MESSAGE: PREPARED**

*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.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that

our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Agnes, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, ... God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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 Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Emma Rose Volz' 13th birthday, April 11th.
Given by Nanny and Gramp.

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Attendance for March 30, 2025: 47

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**Albrecht Dürer (died 1528), Matthias Grünewald (died 1529),
and Lucas Cranach (died 1553); artists**

These great German artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depictions of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Lent 2025: Our last mid-week service will be on Wednesday, April 9th at 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel. Our gathering 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.

Holy Week at St. Peter's:

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday worship at 8:45 & 10:15 am.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday worship at 7 pm. (church)

Easter Sunday worship at 6:30 am. (cemetery), and 8:45 & 10:15 am. (church)

Pancake Breakfast at 7 am. in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 4/27, and bulletins on 4/20 (contact the church office).

Office Help Needed: Joy will be away from the church office the week of May 5th-9th. If you're able to provide phone coverage (9am.-12pm.) any day during the week, contact her at 410-665-7300.

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

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

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 12th from 1-4 pm. at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Enjoy the hunt along with crafts, snacks, and prizes. For more details, call Kim at 443-415-5824.

Baskets, Bags & More Bingo: Saturday, May 3rd for St. John's, Parkville. The bingo will be held at St. Ursula Auditorium (8900 Harford Rd., 21234), doors open at 6 pm. and games begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20/person in advance and \$25 at the door. Event includes regular and special games, 50/50, door prizes, and raffles. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. For tickets or more information, call tony at 443-474-2727 or the church office at 410-665-1234.

Designer Purse Bingo: Sunday, May 4th at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Doors open at noon and games begin at 1 pm. Tickets are \$25/person in advance or \$30 at the door. There will be 20 games of regular bingo, specials, door prizes, and a 50/50. Food and drinks will be available for sales; BYO beer or wine. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Kim at 443-415-5824 or the church office at 410-444-5171.

Neighbor In Need: There is a nearby neighbor who is in need of someone to do minor repairs and ongoing work (ie., yard work, light cleaning, food shopping, etc.). If you are able and interested in helping, please contact Joy in the office (410-665-7300) for contact information.

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.

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

Please welcome Mrs. April Blahut, the new principal of St. Peter's Elementary School! Mrs. Blahut will be installed on Sunday, April 27th.

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 10th. 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 night is Wednesday, April 16th from 3-9 pm. at 8886 Waltham Woods Rd., 21234. Bring your kids and grandkids for an evening of FUNdraising for SPES! More details to follow.

Save the date! SPES will have an Open House on Saturday, April 26th from 9 am.- 12 pm. Invite someone you know who's looking for quality Christian education.