

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

Sunday of the Passion ~ Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**WELCOME** *Theme of the day & Prayer concerns*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**



**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40**

*Entrance into the final days*

This is reading from the Gospel of Luke, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

After he had said this, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

As we begin this week of reflection on the passion of Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, we enter into worship, in the holy city of Jerusalem.

God's abundant mercy, love, and strength

are with you always. **And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **GOD'S WORD**

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 18:28-19:42**      *Common English Bible*

This is the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, as the Word was given to John. **We give glory to you, O Lord.**

The Jewish leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early in the morning. So that they could eat the Passover, the Jewish leaders wouldn't enter the palace; entering the palace would have made them ritually impure.

So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered, **"If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you."**

Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law."

The Jewish leaders replied, **"The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone."** (This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.)

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?"

Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here."

"So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

After Pilate said this, he returned to the Jewish leaders and said, "I find no grounds for any charge against him. You have a custom that I release one prisoner for you at Passover. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?"

They shouted, **"Not this man! Give us Barabbas!"** (Barabbas was an outlaw.)

Then Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. Over and over they went up to him and said, **"Greetings, king of the Jews!"** And they slapped him in the face.

Pilate came out of the palace again and said to the Jewish leaders, "Look! I'm bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no grounds for a charge against him." When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here's the man."

When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, **"Crucify, crucify!"**

Pilate told them, "You take him and crucify him. I don't find any grounds for a charge against him."

The Jewish leaders replied, **"We have a Law, and according to this Law he ought to die because he made himself out to be God's Son."**

When Pilate heard this word, he was even more afraid. He went back into the residence and spoke to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus didn't answer. So Pilate said, "You won't speak to me? Don't you know that I have authority to release you and also to crucify you?"

Jesus replied, "You would have no authority over me if it had not been given to you from above. That's why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." From that moment on, Pilate wanted to release Jesus.

However, the Jewish leaders cried out, saying, **"If you release this man, you aren't a friend of the emperor! Anyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes the emperor!"**

When Pilate heard these words, he led Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench at the place called Stone Pavement (in Aramaic, *Gabbatha*). It was about noon on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, "Here's your king."

The Jewish leaders cried out, **"Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"**

Pilate responded, "What? Do you want me to crucify your king?"

**"We have no king except the emperor,"** the chief priests answered. Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*). That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. Therefore, the Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, **"Don't write, 'The king of the Jews' but 'This man said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'"**

Pilate answered, "What I've written, I've written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to each other, **"Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it."** This was to fulfill the scripture, *They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing.* That's what the soldiers did.

Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

*Silence for reflection.*

It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs. However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. [The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe.] These things happened to fulfill the scripture, *They won't break any of his bones.* And another scripture says, *They will look at him whom they have pierced.*

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 339 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"**

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 2 You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.

- 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;  
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,  
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **DESTINY**        *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.*

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. 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.*

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. 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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## **Monday of Holy Week**

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, your Son chose the path that led to pain before joy and to the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **Introduction**

*During Holy Week some communities gather each day to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Today's gospel commemorates the anointing of Jesus by Mary, a foreshadowing of his death and burial. Jesus' suffering is the path to resurrection and new life. We eagerly wait for the celebration of the great Three Days later this week.*

### **John 12:1-11**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

## Tuesday of Holy Week

### Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail or deny you in the time of trial, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### Introduction

*In today's gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order that it may bear fruit. We die with Christ in baptism that we may be raised with him to new life.*

### John 12:20-36

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.



## **Wednesday in Holy Week**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **Introduction**

*This day was formerly called "Spy Wednesday," an allusion to the gospel accounts in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are called to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come. In the Three Days, which begin tomorrow evening, we will journey with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life.*

### **John 13:21-32**

Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

## **Saturday in Holy Week**

### **Prayer of the Day**

All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people, buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **Introduction**

*In this addendum to the passion story, we hear that Jesus is buried. The Temple leaders are anxious that his followers would practice deceit, claiming that Christ was raised. Holy Saturday also signifies that in death, Jesus went to the dead, as Peter wrote, in order to offer the liberating word of the gospel, that Christ will raise us all on the last day, the completion of Easter.*

### **Matthew 27:57-66**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

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 Dillon's 5th birthday
and Aidan Heinbaugh's April 28th birthday.
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

In Celebration of Ashley's and Rachel's birthdays.
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade

Rose Vase

In Honor of my great-granddaughter,
Hayden Marie Rezek, for her 14th birthday, April 18th.
Love, C.C.

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

In Loving Memory of our daughter-in-law,  
Jill Volz, for her April 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Lois and Fred Volz.

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Attendance for April 6, 2025: 41

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Holy Week at St. Peter's:

Maundy Thursday worship at 7 pm.

Good Friday worship at 7 pm.

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

REMINDER: The church office and SPES will be closed through April 25th, reopening on Monday, April 28th.

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 5/18 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 5/4 & 11 (contact Nancy Barnes).

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

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!

Chuck E. Cheese night is Wednesday, April 16th from 3-9 pm. at 8886 Waltham Woods Rd., 21234. Bring your kids and grandkids for a fun evening while fundraising for SPES! See attached flier for details.

Turning Fun into Funds™ at **CHUCK E. CHEESE**®



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ATTEND St. Peter's Elementary School FUNDRAISER

ADDRESS:

8886 Waltham Woods Rd.
Parkville, MD 21234

DATE: April 16th, 2025

TIME: 3pm-9pm

