

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026, 8:45am**  
**FEAST of the FAITHFUL**

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*\*Please stand as you are able; congregation responses in **BOLD***

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, Praise time*  
**+ What are you praising God for today? +**

**PRELUDE: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"**  
**-J.G. Walther/D. Buxtehude**

**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**THANKSGIVING for BAPTISM**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

We bless you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.  
Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

**You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys  
to refresh and satisfy all living things.**

Through the waters of the flood you carried those  
in the ark to safety. Through the sea  
you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

**In the wilderness you nourished them  
with water from the rock,  
and you brought them across the river Jordan  
to the promised land.**

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,  
your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

**The floods shall not overwhelm us,  
and the deep shall not swallow us up,  
for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.  
He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name  
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water;  
clothe all the baptized with Christ;

**and claim us for your children, no longer slave and free,  
no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized.**

Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated  
on the throne, and to the Lamb! **Amen**



**\*GATHERING HYMN: # 807 "Come, thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**\*GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

P: We begin our worship as we began our baptismal life:

In the Name of the Father, the † Son,  
and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Alleluia! Look! The stone is rolled away!

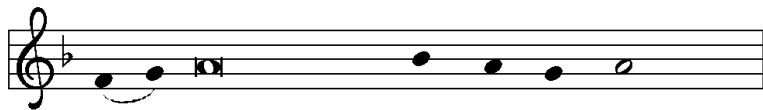
**Christ has freed us from sin and death! Alleluia!**

The risen and ascended Christ is with you. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.

Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



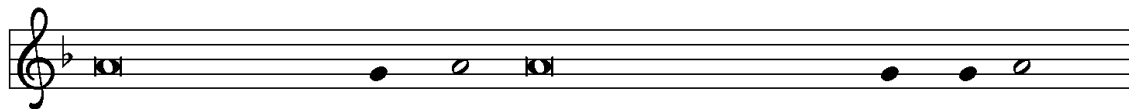
Lord, have mer - cy.



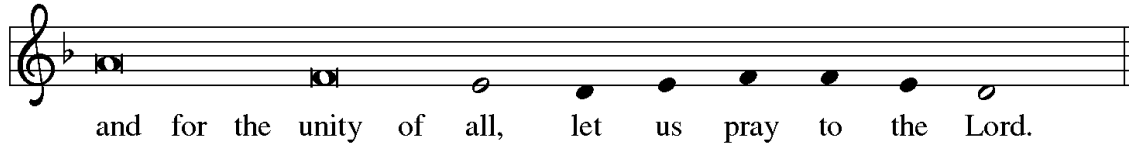
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



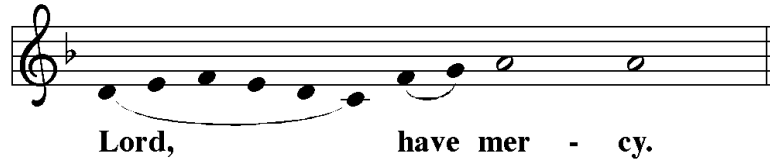
Lord, have mer - cy.



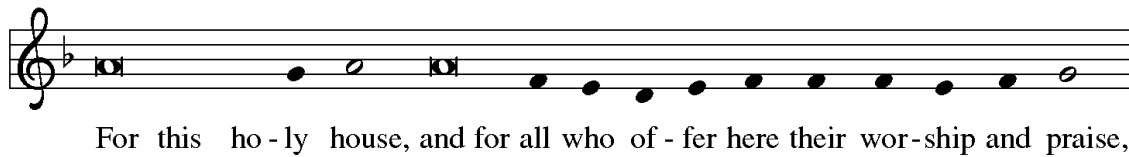
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



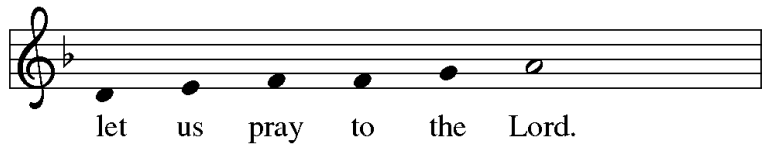
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



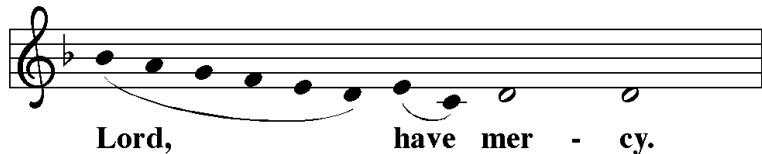
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



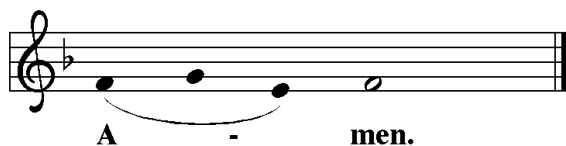
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### **GOD'S WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

A: This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter. The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**We give our thanks to God.**

**PSALMODY: Hymn # 778 "The Lord's My Shepherd"**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

A: This is a reading from Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> letter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**We give our thanks to God.**

**\*WELCOMING the GOSPEL:**



**Verse:** Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.  
I know my own and my | own know me.



## **APOSTLES CREED**

A: With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he  
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection † of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.

**P:** We pray for We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Will, Bea, Kathy, Linda, our at-home worshippers, ...  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen**

### **JESUS' SUPPER**

#### **PEACE at the TABLE**

We come to the Table, forgiven and reconciled with all God's people.

The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

#### **RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS**

#### **OFFERING HYMN: # 783 "Praise and Thanks and Adoration"**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen**

#### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Preface for Easter** (sung by Pastor)

**\*SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*THANKSGIVING at the TABLE for EASTER**

P: This is the day that in joy and delight  
**we join with all the angels of heaven  
and all the creatures on earth**  
to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you,  
**all holy and mighty and glorious God.**  
For Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

This is the day that you gave light to the earth.  
This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea  
**and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom.**  
Now every night is as bright as day,  
and that light is Christ: **We give our thanks to God.**

This is the day that you broke the chains of death.  
This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth,  
**you washed away sin, rescued us from evil,  
and brought us your peace.**

The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign,  
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

While his followers were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,  
Take, eat; this is my body. Do this to remember me.  
Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,  
Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant,  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this to remember me.

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit.  
**Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior.**  
Illumine our lives with your presence,  
**and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race,**  
for that light is Christ: **We give our thanks to God.**

All holy and mighty and glorious God,  
radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit,  
**we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy,**  
**and we praise your victory through all time and space,**  
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed. Amen and amen**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, we pray as Jesus 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**

**\*BREAKING the BREAD**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ.  
When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,**  
**as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

**Sharing Communion** *Please take time for meditation & prayer.*

**HYMN during the Supper: # 789**

***"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"***

**BLESSING:** The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen  
and preserve us for life now and for the promised life to come. **Amen**

## LAMB of GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## SPIRIT'S SENDING

### PRAYER for MISSION

A: Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Holy One, **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen**

**MISSION UPDATE:** *upcoming opportunities for witness & learning*

### \*BLESSING

P: Please stand as you are able to receive the benediction:

*God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and their Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
bless † us now | and forever.*

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

**\*SENDING HYMN: #385**

***"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"***

**\*SENT into MISSION**

A: Alleluia! Jesus is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**We will Learn God's Truth.**

**We will Share Spirit's Healing.**

**We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen**

P: We go in the peace of Christ

to love and serve all! **YES, we will!**

**POSTLUDE: "*Prelude in C-Major*" –J.S. Bach**

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**Today's Sponsorships**

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

In Loving Memory of Frank Alkire's April 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

To the Glory of God and To Celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
Given by Kathy and Lyle Shull.

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

In Honor 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 Sunday, April 19, 2026: 32

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Helping with today's worship:  
Worship Assistant: Kathy Shull  
Ushers: Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

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

**Thank You to Pr. Teal Anderson for presiding over today's worship services while Pr. Lans is away.**

**The Small Catechism** Zoom gatherings will continue intermittently throughout the next few months. Upcoming dates are: 4/29, 5/6, 14, 21, & 27, and 6/4 & 11. June 18<sup>th</sup> TBD. All information will be sent out by email on the afternoon of each Zoom date.

**REMINDER:** The church office will be open from 9am.-12pm. the week of 5/4-8.

**Rest & Recharge on the Ridge:** TODAY 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.

**Clothing Shed:** St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234) has a clothing shed. Please consider donating gently used clothes, linens, shoes, belts, blankets, purses, and stuffed toys (no housewares).

**Mother's Day Flower Sale & Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). In the event of inclement weather, the flower sale will be indoors, but the yard sale will be cancelled. If you're interested in selling at the yard sale, spaces are \$15 each. Contact the church at 410-687-4621 for information or to reserve a space.

**Flea Market & Craft Fair:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am.-12 pm. at St. Michael, Perry Hall (9534 Belair Rd., 21236). Vendors are wanted – information and to register, go to [www.stmichaelperryhall.org](http://www.stmichaelperryhall.org) (\$25/space). Rain date 5/23.

**The Chosen (season 4):** Tuesdays from 5:15-7 pm. 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 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).

**Afternoon Tea Bus Trip:** Thursday, June 18th, 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 4th 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).

**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 House on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm. Contact the school to RSVP.