

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2026**

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ † is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Holy One, we bring our sins to you, trusting in the cross and resurrection that wiped them away through Christ our Savior. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. Amen**



God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! **Amen**

**PRAYER of the DAY**

The risen and ascended Christ is with you. **And also with you.**  
Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty God, your son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

This is a reading from Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> letter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.  
Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a

spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,” and  
“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.  
This is holy Wisdom, God’s holy Word.

#### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said to the disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also

do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **Believe**                    *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

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.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. 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.*

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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**

### **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**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Holy One, through the Word of the resurrected life of Christ Jesus, 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**

**BLESSING**

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. **Amen**

**PEACE**

We are sent to share Good News,  
forgiven and reconciled with all God's people.  
The peace of Christ is with you always.

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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 Brian Heinbaugh's,  
Alyssa Heinbaugh's, and Melanie Smith's May birthdays.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

In Honor of the birthdays of our granddaughters,  
Maggie (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Ellie (4<sup>th</sup>).  
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

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

In Honor of Mae Bast's May 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Volz family.

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Attendance for Sunday, April 26, 2026: 33

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

**The Small Catechism** Zoom gatherings will continue intermittently throughout the next few months. Upcoming dates are: 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.

**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. 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 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.

**Sponsorships Needed:** Altar flowers for 5/17 & 7/12, and bulletins for 6/7. Contact the church office to sponsor.

**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).

**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!

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

**Family Fun Day** is scheduled for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 pm. All are invited!