

**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**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Good Shepherd Sunday ~ Mother's Day**  
May 11, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ☩ the One who was,  
who is, and who is to come. **Amen**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, we confess our need for God's absolution and reconciliation.

*A brief silence.* To you, O God, **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Christ Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace, mercy, and peace of God are with you,  
today and always. **And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**LITANY for MOTHERS**

Gracious God, in love you have given us the gift of mothers, and those who are mothers to those they love. Grant to each caregiver your power and grace. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen them in their mothering with tenderness and understanding, with compassion and joy. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**



Endow them with wisdom and knowledge so that they might teach their children how to live and how to love; how to seek and pursue that which is right and true; how to turn away from all that is hurtful and wrong. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Deepen their own faith so that they might instill in their children a love for you that will sustain and keep them their whole life long. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Share your abundant mercy and comfort with those who have lost children to miscarriage or untimely deaths, those unable to have children, and all who adopt children in need of forever homes. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the homecomings of all children to enjoy the comforts of home and family. Uphold with resurrection promise those who mourn their faithful parents who now dwell in our new home with Christ. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus said, How I wanted to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Gather our prayers in the joy and peace that God, our Father and Mother, gives through Christ our Brother. **Amen**

### **GOD'S WORD**

#### **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways  
for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,**

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**READING: Revelation 7:9-17** *Contemporary English Version*

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life.  
Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

This is a responsive reading from the Revelation of Christ, chapter 5.

*John writes:* After this, I saw a large crowd with more people than could be counted. They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands, as they shouted,

**"Our God, who sits upon the throne,  
has the power to save his people,  
and so does the Lamb."**

The angels who stood around the throne knelt in front of it with their faces to the ground. The elders and the four living creatures knelt there with them. Then they all worshiped God and said,

**"Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power,  
and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!"**

One of the elders asked me, "Do you know who these people are that are dressed in clean, bright robes? Do you know where they come from?"

"Sir," I answered, "you must know."

Then he told me:

"These are the ones who have gone through the great suffering.

**They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb  
and have made them clean.**

And so they stand before the throne of God  
and worship in God's temple day and night.

**The one who sits on the throne  
will spread his tent over them.**

They will never hunger or thirst again,  
**and they won't be troubled by the sun  
or any scorching heat.**

The Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

**He will lead them to streams of life-giving water,  
and God will wipe all tears from their eyes."**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Judeans gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you

do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 778 "The Lord's My Shepherd"**

- 1     The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.  
      he makes me down to lie  
      in pastures green; he leadeth me  
      the quiet waters by.  
      He leadeth me, he leadeth me  
      the quiet waters by.
- 2     My soul he doth restore again,  
      and me to walk doth make  
      within the paths of righteousness,  
      e'en for his own name's sake;  
      within the paths of righteousness,  
      e'en for his own name's sake.
- 3     Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
      yet will I fear no ill;  
      for thou art with me, and thy rod  
      and staff me comfort still;  
      for thou art with me, and thy rod  
      and staff me comfort still.
- 4     My table thou hast richly spread  
      in presence of my foes;  
      my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
      and my cup overflows.  
      My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
      and my cup overflows.
- 5     Goodness and mercy all my life  
      shall surely follow me,  
      and in God's house forevermore  
      my dwelling-place shall be;  
      and in God's house forevermore  
      my dwelling-place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650

**MESSAGE:**       **GOOD SHEPHERD**       *silence for reflection follows*

## **The CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. *A brief silence.* We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Agnes, Joe, George, Donna Bethke and family, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for Shirley and all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that God's will is done, 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**

**MISSION UPDATES:** *opportunities for learning & service*

**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**

O God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way  
with resurrection dawn, now and forever.

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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, Donna Bethke and family on the passing of her mother Shirley Bass (4/30), 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 Loving Memory of the women in our family:  
Pauline, Elizabeth, Margaret, Nana, Gail, and Mom.  
Given by Linda Gasiorowski.

*Rose Vase*

In Honor of Katie Sykes for her Christian birthday, today.  
Given with love from Aunt Donna and Uncle Joe.

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

In Honor and Memory of our special mothers,  
grandmothers, Godmothers, and aunts on Mother's Day.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

**Happy Mother's Day to all the "moms" in our lives!**

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 5/18 (contact the church office).

**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.

**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 & PACE***

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!