

**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 of Easter, May 18, 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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, 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: Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*



This is a responsive reading from the Revelation of Christ, chapter 21.  
*John writes:* I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

**"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples,  
and God's very self will be with them;  
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."**

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, **"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

#### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

When Judas had gone out (in order to bring the soldiers and Temple police), 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.

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

#### **HYMN of the DAY: # 631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**MESSAGE:**        **Love One Another**        *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.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or

facing illness. *A brief silence.* We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Agnes, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love especially Erik, King of Sweden. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. 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, 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 Celebration of Duane Barnes'  
and Mina Barnes' May birthdays.  
Given with love by Nancy Barnes.

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

In Honor of Aunt Shirley Weinreich  
for her May 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for May 11, 2025: 38

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**Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

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

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 6/22 & 29, and bulletins on 6/22 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 6/1 & 22 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Prayer Group:** Hello, everyone! As we conclude our fun and interesting journey through the "Fruits of the Spirit," our June 4th gathering will include any comments on your favorite fruit, ie., anything outstanding or memorable. Join us at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access)! This is our last gathering until September 3rd. See you there, Patty Read & Kathy Shull.

**Please Note:** Beginning Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the church's summer office hours will be M-Th 9a-3p, and F 9a-12p.

**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](http://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***

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register for the 2025-2026 school year. Referrals are always welcome!