

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
The DAY of PENTECOST, GIVING of the HOLY SPIRIT

May 19, 2024

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**



**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*  
We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy. **Amen**

In hope, we seek reconciliation and renewal in Jesus' resurrection life.  
*Silence for prayer and reflection.* 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

**CALL to WORSHIP and PRAYER of the DAY**

After fifty days of Easter rejoicing, the church cries out:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

All those living in resurrection light sing with joy:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

All those dying under the weight of sin and grief plead:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Come, Holy Spirit: fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
**and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia!**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Servant and Leader, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**      *Contemporary English Version*  
*The Hebrew word rendered as ruach means "spirit," "wind," or "breath." This reading plays on the different meanings of the word. Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will*

*give the exiles God's own spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.*

This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel, the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter.

I felt the LORD's power take control of me, and his Spirit carried me to a valley full of bones. The LORD showed me all around, and everywhere I looked I saw bones that were dried out. He said, "Ezekiel, mortal one, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "LORD God, only you can answer that."

God then told me to say:

Dry bones, listen to what the LORD is saying to you, "I, the LORD God, will put breath in you, and once again you will live. I will wrap you with muscles and skin and breathe life into you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

I did what the LORD said, but before I finished speaking, I heard a rattling noise. The bones were coming together! I saw muscles and skin cover the bones, but they had no life in them.

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, now say to the wind, "The LORD God commands you to blow from every direction and to breathe life into these dead bodies, so they can live again."

As soon as I said this, the wind blew among the bodies, and they came back to life! They all stood up, and there were enough to make a large army.

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, the people of Israel are like dead bones. They complain that they are dried up and that they have no hope for the future. So tell them, "I, the LORD God, promise to open your graves and set you free. I will bring you back to Israel, and when that happens, you will realize that I am the LORD. My Spirit will give you breath, and you will live again. I will bring you home, and you will know that I have kept my promise. I, the LORD, have spoken."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-21**

*Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.*

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of

them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
**and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,**  
**and your young men shall see visions,**  
**and your old men shall dream dreams.**

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
**in those days I will pour out my Spirit;**  
**and they shall prophesy.**

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
**blood, and fire, and smoky mist.**  
**The sun shall be turned to darkness**  
**and the moon to blood,**  
**before the coming of the Lord's great**  
**and glorious day.**

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53**

*Contemporary English Version*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*When the risen Jesus had appeared to his disciples, he said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen."*

Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. He told them, "The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. I will send you the one my Father has promised, but you must stay in the city until you are given power from heaven."

Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this, he left and was taken up to heaven. After his disciples had worshipped him, they returned to Jerusalem and were very happy. They spent their time in the temple, praising God.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 404 "Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove"**

- 1 Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
with light and comfort from above.  
Come, be our guardian and our guide;  
o'er ev'ry thought and step preside.
- 2 The light of truth to us display  
and make us know and choose your way;  
plant holy fear in ev'ry heart,  
that we from God may ne'er depart.
- 3 Lead us to Christ, the living way,  
nor let us from his pastures stray.  
Lead us in holiness, the road  
that we must take to dwell with God.
- 4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share  
fullness of joy forever there;  
lead us to our eternal rest,  
to be with God forever blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680-1732, alt.

**MESSAGE:       INSPIRE**

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way – with cancer, diabetes, or heart disease, flu or COVID, addiction or mental illness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and tech ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Louisa, Mary Lou, Nancy, our at-home worshippers, ...

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

May the Spirit of the living Christ fill you with faith and trust,  
burn in you with the fire of love, enliven your bones,  
body, and life, and breathe through you the breath of life.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and always. **Amen**

**PEACE**

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

*Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.*

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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 Loving Memory of my parents,  
Vi and Ernest Grimm's wedding anniversary, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Given by their daughter, Carole.

For the Glory of God.

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

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

In Loving Memory of my husband, Phillip Sacker,
and In Honor of my family.
Given by wife, mother, grandmother,
and great-grandmother, Genevieve Sacker.

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Attendance for May 12, 2024: 57

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

### **Happy birthday to the Christian church!**

**Pentecost Geraniums:** Thank you to everyone who sponsored geraniums to decorate the altar for Pentecost. When you take your flowers please initial the sheet at the lectern. Any flowers remaining after May 26<sup>th</sup> will be given to a good home.

**Memorial Day Closings:** The church office and school will be closed on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Prayer Group:** So, prayer warriors, PRAYER GROUP will meet on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access), and will take a summer break for July and August. We will resume on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Our fall theme, "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT" will get us all in the "back to school" mode, ready to spend our brief, but powerful monthly time talking with Our LORD. JOIN US!!!!

**Sponsorships Available:** Flowers for 8:45 am. on 6/23, and bulletins on 6/23 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. on 6/2, 23, & 30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Community Yard Sale:** Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 am.-1 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Spaces are \$20 for 1 and \$30 for 2 (bring your own table and chair) and must be reserved by 5/28. Space is approximately size of 2 parking spaces. Contact Chris Hills at 410-952-4920 or cr\_hills@yahoo.com. Vendors may not sell food as St. John's will have a concession stand.

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Summer Arts Camp:** August 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, M-F 9a-3p. at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). For kids who've completed Kindergarten to those who've completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Cost is \$200 and includes camp, lunch, and snacks. For more information or to register, call 410-444-5171.

**PayPal Donations:** You can now 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.

**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.

***News from St. Peter's Elementary School***

"Open Enrollment" for the 2024-25 school year continues. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

Our weekly chapel services are every Wednesday at 9:15 am. Parents and families are always welcome to join us! Please note that our last chapel service of this school year will be held on June 5th.

Save the Date! Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – PACE & church family picnic!