

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
Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25, 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.* Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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**

**FIRST READING: Acts 16:12b-15** *Contemporary English Version*

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*



This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16.

*Luke writes:* We spent several days in Philippi. Then on the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to a place by the river, where we thought there would be a Jewish meeting place for prayer. We sat down and talked with the women who came. One of them was Lydia, who was from the city of Thyatira and sold expensive purple cloth. She was a worshiper of the Lord God, and he made her willing to accept what Paul was saying. Then after she and her family were baptized, she kept on begging us, "If you think I really do have faith in the Lord, come stay in my home." Finally, we accepted her invitation.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5**

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

This is a reading from the Revelation of Christ, chapter 21.

*John writes:* And in the spirit one of the angels carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 5:1-9a**

*Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

After the healing in Cana, there was a festival of the Jewish nation, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porches. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed—waiting for the stirring of the water; whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made well from whatever disease that person had. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

This is the Good News of Christ’s Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 381 “Peace, to Sooth Our Bitter Woes”**

- 1     Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,  
      God in Christ on us bestows;  
      Jesus bought our peace with God  
      with his holy, precious blood;  
      peace in him for sinners found  
      is the gospel’s joyful sound.
- 2     Peace within the church still dwells  
      in our welcomes and farewells;  
      and through God’s baptismal pow’r  
      peace surrounds our dying hour.  
      Peace be with you, full and free,  
      now and through eternity.

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

**MESSAGE:**       *Healing       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.*

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling. *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 you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. 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. **Amen**

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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 Buzz Robinson.
Given with love by the Mills family

In Celebration of Jeff's and Michell's wedding anniversary.
Given by Doris Alkire.

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

The McQuade family extends congratulations to the  
St. Peter's Elementary School graduates of 2025:  
Perry Cellinese, Evelyn Harmon, James Henderson,  
Olivia Lauer, Jazmine Rogers, Gage Stoner,  
Trejolie Thompson, Christopher Tryhubenko.

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Attendance for May 18, 2025: 32

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 27th, the church's summer office hours will be M-Th 9a-3p, and F 9a-12p.

DE/MD SWO Quilt Raffle: Support Katie's Fund, a program that provides support for WELCA ministries and initiatives. The quilt was made by St. Peter's quilting group! Chances are 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, or 13 for \$20. See Heather Frederick (410-925-4171) for more information and to purchase tickets. Raffle drawing will be on June 15th.

Road Trip VBS: July 14th-18th from 9 am.-12:30 pm. at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Registration is for children who've just completed PreK3-5th grade. Children must have completed at least 1 year of preschool by June 2025 and be potty trained. Register early as it closes when we've reached full capacity (60 children). To register or for questions, call the office at 410-665-1234 or email office@stjohnsparkville.org.

Music Camps: (Campette) July 28-30 from 9a-12p for students who've just completed K-2nd grade, and (Camp) August 11-15 from 9a-2p for students who've just completed 3rd-8th grade at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Campette is \$15 per student, non-refundable, and Camp is \$25 per student, non-refundable. Registration forms and additional information can be found at www.stjohnsparkville.org.

Kids Summer Arts Camp: August 4th-15th from 9a-3p at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). The camp is for children who've just completed 1st-5th grade. Activities include music making, dance & movement, and making art. Registration is \$225 per student and includes lunch and snacks. To register, call 410-444-5171.

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

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!