

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
1st Sunday after Pentecost, Memorial Day, Feast of the Holy Trinity

May 26, 2024

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns*



**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*

P: We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna,  
the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, we confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY** *from Ephesians, ch 1, CEV*

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

**The Father treated us with undeserved grace  
because of the Son God dearly loves,  
and so we should praise God. Amen**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty and ever-living God, you have given us grace, by our confession of faith, to acknowledge and worship your triune name in the majesty of your unity. Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your eternal glory, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Isaiah 6:1-8**

*This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great*

*thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**      *Contemporary English Version*

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. One night he went to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God's realm!"

Nicodemus asked, "How can a grown man ever be born a second time?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's realm, you must be born not only by water, but by Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, "How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these

things? I tell you for certain we know what we are talking about because we have seen it ourselves. But none of you will accept what we say. If you don't believe when I talk to you about things on earth, how can you possibly believe if I talk to you about things in heaven?"

No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from there. And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as the metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life.

God loved the people of this world so that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. God sent him to save them!

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 414 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"**

- 1 Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim,  
all in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.
- 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"
- 3 Lo, the apostolic train  
join your sacred name to hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the white-robed martyrs follow;  
and from morn to set of sun  
through the church the song goes on.
- 4 Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
though in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim you  
and, adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900

**MESSAGE: PERSONA**

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. *A brief silence.*

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict whom we recall in our hearts before you, our heavenly Prince of peace, ....

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints. As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **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**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

Creator of the universe, make all things new.

**Let it be so among us now.**

Savior of the universe, make all things new.

**Let it be so for those we remember this day.**

Comforter of the universe, make all things new.

**Let it be so for this world you love.**

Almighty God † bless us, defend us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life. **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

Honoring the May 5th birthday of Janet Ritte,
the May 7th birthday of Luke Connor Harry,
and Tessa Harry's May 26th birthday.
Given by Betty Harry.

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 2024:  
Cristina Brown, Jeremy Brown, Alice Maina, Novalee McDonald,  
Jaxon O'Connell, Payton Riefner, and Aubrey Torres.

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Attendance for May 19, 2024: 53

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Celebrate the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Memorial Day Closings: The church office and school will be closed on Monday, May 27th.

The church office will be closed on Friday, May 31st.

Summer Office Hours:

- Church (begin 5/28) M-Th 9a-3p; F 9a-12p
- School (begin 6/10) M-Th 9a-12p

Prayer Group: So, prayer warriors, PRAYER GROUP will meet on Wednesday, June 5th 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 4th. 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. 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 1st 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.

Flea Market & Craft Fair: Saturday, June 22nd from 9a-2p at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Event includes a plant sale and bake sale!

27th Annual Kids Summer Arts Camp: August 5th-16th, M-F 9a-3p. at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). For kids who've completed Kindergarten to those who've completed 5th 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.

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***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!