

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ Ascension, June 1, 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.* Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in our presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

*The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

This is a responsive reading from the Revelation of Christ, chapter 22.

The one on the throne said, "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**"

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

**"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches.** I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

**The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."**

**And let everyone who hears say, "Come."**

**And let everyone who is thirsty come.**

**Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.**

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. **Amen**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 1:1-11**

*Before his is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1.

*Luke writes:* In the first book, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the realm of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of God, word of life.

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

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, Jesus blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 825 "You Servants of God"**

- 1     You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
      and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
      the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
      his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!
- 2     Ascended on high, almighty to save,  
      yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
      The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
      ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!
- 3     Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
      Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
      The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
      fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4     Then let us adore and give him his right,  
      all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
      all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
      and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **Arise!**        *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.*

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart. *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.*

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died, we look toward your coming again among us. 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 Dorothy Price's June 3rd birthday
and Cora Sawyer's birthday.
Given by Terri and Rich Murphy.

In Honor of Dawn Heinbaugh's June 2nd birthday.
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

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

In Loving Memory of Betty Weinreich  
for her June 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Nolan Weinreich and family.

In Honor of our grandson, Jacob, on his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by LaLa and Pop.

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Attendance for May 25, 2025: 38

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 6/22 (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 on Tuesday, May 27th, the church's summer office hours will be M-Th 9a-3p, and F 9a-12p. Beginning on Monday, June 9th, the school's summer office hours will be M-Th 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!