

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025, 8:45 am.

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*



**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen**

Trusting in God's mercy, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

*Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.*

This is a reading from the prophet Malachi, chapter 4.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is God's Word, our hope.

**SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13** *Contemporary English Version*

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

This is a reading from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3.

*Paul writes:* My dear friends, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I beg you not to have anything to do with any of your people who loaf around and refuse to obey the instructions we gave you. You surely know that you should follow our example. We didn't waste our time loafing, and we didn't accept food from anyone without paying for it. We didn't want to be a burden to any of you, so night and day we worked as hard as we could.

We had the right not to work, but we wanted to set an example for you. We also gave you this rule: If you don't work, you don't eat. Now we learn that some of you just loaf around and won't do any work, except the work of a busybody. So, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ask and beg these people to settle down and start working for a living. Dear friends, you must never become tired of doing right.

This is God's Word, our hope.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19**

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And Jesus said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought

before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 632 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **Patient Endurance**        *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore people and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Lynn, Will, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, or Lord. **Amen**

**OFFERING PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

So that all the world may be fed, we pray 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**

**BLESSING and PEACE**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  
bless ☩ you now and forever. **Amen**

*Paul wrote:* "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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***Today's Sponsorships***

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Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of Audrey and Buzz Robinson
on their shared November 18th birthday.
Given with love by the Mills family.

In Celebration of Madeline's
11th birthday on November 24th.
Given with love by Doris Alkire

Rose Vase

In Honor of my grandson, James Frederick, V,
for his 12th birthday, November 18th.
Given by his grandmother, Irma Stockdale.

Rose Vase

To the Glory of God and In Honor
of the November 14th birthday
of Noah Shull. Happy 18th!!
Love, G-ma and Pop.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Kathy and Steve Sykes  
on their anniversary, November 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Given with love from the Mills family.

In Honor of our granddaughter,  
Allie Wilmot's November 21<sup>st</sup> birthday,  
and our daughter-in-law,  
Kristen Volz's November 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
All our best wishes, Lois and Fred Volz.

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Attendance for November 9, 2025: 34

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Thanksgiving Worship: Tuesday, November 25th at 7 pm. in Grace Chapel.

Thanksgiving Closings: **St. Peter's Elementary School will be closed from 11/26-11/28. The church office will be closed on 11/27 & 28.**

Poinsettias: Help us decorate the altar for Christmas! Each plant is \$8. Contact the church office for an order form.

Saints Designer Bag Bingo: Friday, November 14th at Concordia Prep School (1145 Concordia Dr., Towson 21286). Doors open at 6 pm. and games begin at 7 pm. Enjoy a fun night out while supporting a great cause. Tickets are \$35 or \$320 for a table of 10. Purchase tickets on the school website, <http://www.concordiaprepschool.org/> or call the office at 410-825-2323, ext. 275.

Basket Bingo: Friday, November 21st at St. Luke's, Dundalk (1803 Dundalk Ave., 21222). Doors open at 5:30 pm. and games begin at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Lite supper and refreshments available for purchase. Door prizes, raffles, and special games. For more information call Kathe (410-458-8364) or Michelle (443-570-3701).

2nd Annual Thanksgiving Food Give-a-way: Saturday, November 22nd from 9am – 2 pm. at All Saints Lutheran (4215 Loch Raven Blvd., 21218). Come join us for our "Food-Give-A-Way! Receive a box of groceries. Enjoy good hot dogs, hamburgers, music and fellowship. Everyone is Welcome!

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 22nd from 9 am.-1pm. at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Photos with Santa, creative crafts, cookie walk, homemade desserts, flea market items, jewelry, raffles, and train garden.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 29th from 9 am-3 pm at St. Luke's, Parkville (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Handmade gifts, holiday crafts, local artisans, food sampling, fair trade gifts, Trim A Tree fundraiser, and more. Vendors wanted with unique items, arts & crafts: \$30 per table space, register now. Contact Kim at 443-415-5824 for more information.

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 11/30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

St. Peter's Family Goods Center: We are in the homestretch of doing the finishing touches on the FGC, and hope to be operating before Thanksgiving! Spread the word! If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

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

It's not too late to enroll for the 2025-2026 school year! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!