

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen**



Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by ☩ grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

We bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Oh, come, let us worship and praise our God.**

Emmanuel, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 2.  
The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that God may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
God shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!  
This is God's Word, our hope.

**SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14**      *Common English Bible*  
*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 13.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.  
This is God's Word, our hope.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**  
*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Humanity. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the

coming of the Son of Humanity. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Humanity is coming at an unexpected hour."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

**MESSAGE:**        **Keep Awake**        *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation.  
Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world  
around us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast  
out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community.  
Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and  
relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture  
therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and  
companions who are ill or despairing especially those affected by HIV and  
AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. Surround all with care and  
consolation. 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, ... God of  
grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the  
last, bring us with Andrew and all the saints to your holy city where peace  
and goodness make a home. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in  
your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, 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**

**PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* God our hope, **in the Word made flesh, you give us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share and welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen**

**BLESSING and PEACE**

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always. **Amen**  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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Andrew, Apostle

Andrew was the first of the Twelve. He is known as a fisherman who left his net to follow Jesus. As a part of his calling, he brought other people, including Simon Peter, to meet Jesus. The Byzantine church honors Andrew as its patron and points out that because he was the first of Jesus' followers, he was, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." Together with Philip, Andrew leads a number of Greeks to speak with Jesus, and it is Andrew who shows Jesus a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew is said to have died on a cross saltire, an X-shaped cross.

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***Today's Sponsorships***

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Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of my family.
Given by Janice Frederick.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of loved ones.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

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Attendance for November 23, 2025: 43

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

Prayer Group: We are gathering at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) on Wednesday, December 3rd to chat about “Whatever is JUST.” Come find out what it means. Our prayers make a difference!

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 12/7, 14, & 21 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 12/14 & 28 (contact Nancy Barnes).

St. Peter’s Family Goods Center: 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 and PACE

Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year begins in January! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Referrals are always welcome!