

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School

Our Mission: Learning God's Truth,

Sharing the Spirit's Healing, Following the Way of Jesus.

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, January 14, 2024

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day & prayer concerns*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
creator of darkness and light, word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen**

As we await Christ's epiphany, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge, **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of Jesus ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

The love of God, the light of Christ,  
and the fire of Spirit is with you all.

**And also with you.** We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10** *Common English Bible*

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes

had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest, the ark of the covenant, was.

The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:43-51**

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to

Nathanael, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 696 "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"**

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

**MESSAGE: *Calling***

*silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil.  
Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering

from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Betty, our at-home worshippers, ...

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Watching for Christ's appearing, we pray as he 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**

### **SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Let us together pray. *A brief silence.* Giver of every gift, we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing. *A brief silence.*

God who names you, Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
bless you ☩ and remain with you always.

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those in your household or on our FB page.*

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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 Janice Webb.

Given by Terri, Rich, Richie, Casey, and John Patrick.

In Memory of parents, Katherine's and Anna's birthdays.

Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

*Rose Vase*

In Honor of Genevieve Sacker's January 15th birthday.

Given by Ruth.

*Rose Vase*

In Honor of Everett Hohl Read for his 9th birthday, January 16th.

With love from his grandmother, Patty Read.

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

In Honor of Aunt Betty & Uncle Bunk Weinreich
on their January 20th anniversary.

Given with love by the Mills family.

In Honor of the 8th birthday of Chelsey Marie Volz,
on her January 19th birthday.

Given by her grandparents, Lois and Fred Volz.

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Attendance for January 7, 2024: 34

***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

**The school and church office will be closed on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**2024 Envelopes are available in the back of the church.**

**Sponsorship Available:** Flowers for 10:15 am. 1/21 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**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](http://EasternSavingsBank.com).