

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School

Our Mission: Learn God's Truth,

Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 21, 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.* Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have a spouse be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as

though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

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

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the realm of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went a little farther, Jesus saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed Jesus.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

**MESSAGE: *Following***                      *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.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

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

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

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

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. Protect all those caught among the battlefields of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.

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

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them as the martyr, Agnes, ministered to victims of sexual abuse. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain.

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

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us.

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

We especially pray for John, Betty (in hospital), our at-home worshippers, ...

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation.

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 Honor of Joe Mills on his January 23rd birthday.
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

In Loving Memory of my mother,
Grace Williams, on her January 24th birthday.
Given by Anita Gladstone.

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

In Honor of Joey Mills' January 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Sykes family.

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Attendance for January 14, 2024: 44

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

2024 Envelopes are available in the back of the church.

Prayers Group: Feeling a little blue during the cold, dark winter months? Warm up with SONshine and prayer! Our “prayer warriors” will meet in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) on Wednesday, February 7th. All prayer concerns are welcome!

February Annual Meeting to discuss the missions and life of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 25th. There will be one worship service at 9:30 am. with the meeting immediately following. Please plan to attend to find out about exciting upcoming events and plans for St. Peter’s!

Used Book Sale: Saturday, February 17th (9a-1p) and Sunday, February 18th (10a-12p) at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Call 410-866-8766 with any questions.

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for 8:45 am. on 2/18, the one service on 2/25, and bulletins on 2/25 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. on 2/4 & 18 (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.