

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**

**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth,**

**Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, January 28, 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.* Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20** Contemporary English Version

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

Moses said, 'God will choose one of your own people to be a prophet just like me, and you must do what that prophet says. You were asking for a prophet

the day you were gathered at Mount Sinai and said to the LORD, "Please don't let us hear your voice or see this terrible fire again—if we do, we will die!"

Then the LORD told me, "Moses, they have said the right thing. So when I want to speak to them, I will choose one of them to be a prophet like you. I will give my message to that prophet, who will tell the people exactly what I have said. Since the message comes from me, anyone who doesn't obey the message will have to answer to me.

"But if I haven't spoken, and a prophet claims to have a message from me, you must kill that prophet, and you must also kill any prophet who claims to have a message from another god."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 614 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"**

#### *Refrain*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1 Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*
- 2 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *Refrain*

- 3 Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

**MESSAGE: *Cleansing*** *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.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

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

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Help all those regions recovering from storms and other weather disasters. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth.

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

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. Guard the peoples of Ukraine and the Holy Land.

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

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer.

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

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love.

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.*

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

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 parents, Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Matz  
and Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dohmeier.  
Given by Jerry Dohmeier.

In Celebration of Michael's and Lucas' birthdays.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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

In Loving Memory of husband, Phillip Sacker,  
and parents, Catherine and Carl Haug.  
Given by wife and daughter, Genevieve Sacker.

In Honor of Jennie on her February 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

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Attendance for January 21, 2024: 29

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

**Chili Cook-off:** All are invited to this delicious event, hosted by St. Peter's PACE, beginning at 11:15 am. on Sunday, January 28th in the fellowship hall.

**2024 Envelopes:** After today, offering envelopes will be available for pick up from the church office. Please call 410-665-7300 to schedule a pick up or to get your envelope number.

**Holy Land Benefit Concert & Raffle:** Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Free will donation for the concert, featuring music by Keith Derrikson and Nancy Asendorf in the styles of classical, pop, and Broadway. Raffle of an Amazon Fire Tablet bundle is \$25 for one ticket or \$100 for 4 tickets. Winners must be present at the drawing. Proceeds from the concert and raffle benefit Lutheran Disaster Response for their work in response to the crisis in the Middle East. For more information, call the church office at 410-665-1234.

**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 7<sup>th</sup>. at 11 am. All prayer concerns are welcome!

**Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Join the school children for Chapel at 9:15 am., with a communion service in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) immediately following, and at 7 pm. in the church. Lent mid-week services will continue through March 20<sup>th</sup> on Wednesdays at 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel.

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

**February Annual Meeting** to discuss the missions and life of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**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).

**Easter Flower Sponsorships:** Please see the attached order form. Orders and payment are due to the church office no later than Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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).