

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

**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth,  
Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**

**First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 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, who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen**

Held in God's mercy, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's mercy, grace, and love are with you all.

**And also with you.** We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17** *International Children's Bible*

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

Then God said to Noah and his sons, "Now I am making my agreement with you and your people who will live after you. And I also make it with every living thing that is with you. It is with the birds, the tame animals and

the wild animals. It is with all that came out of the boat with you. I make my agreement with every living thing on earth. I make this agreement with you: I will never again destroy all living things by floodwaters. A flood will never again destroy the earth."

And God said, "I am making an agreement between me and you and every living creature that is with you. It will continue from now on. This is the sign: I am putting my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of the agreement between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow appears in the clouds. Then I will remember my agreement. It is between me and you and every living thing. Floodwaters will never again destroy all life on the earth. When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it. Then I will remember the agreement that continues forever. It is between me and every living thing on the earth."

So God said to Noah, "That rainbow is a sign. It is the sign of the agreement that I made with all living things on earth."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22** *Common English Bible*

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit.

And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water.

Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a

voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 785 "It Is Well with My Soul"**

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

#### *Refrain*

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*
- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*
- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

**MESSAGE: A SIGN**     *silence for reflection follows*

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

#### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Guard all who are caught in the battlefields of the Middle East, central Africa, Myanmar, and Ukraine.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

So that evil may not tempt us, 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**

As we serve, we pray. *A brief silence.* Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing. *A brief silence.*

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage, and give you ☩ peace. **Amen**

**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*

For the Glory of God.

For the Glory of God.

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

In Loving Memory of my brother, Dave's birthday, on February 13<sup>th</sup>,  
and In Honor of my brother, Don's birthday, on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Given by their sister, Ruth May.

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Attendance for February 11, 2024: 40

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

**Mid-week Lent Worship:** Join us in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) for worship at 11:30 am. on Wednesdays through March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 the one service on 2/25, and bulletins on 2/25 (contact the church office).

**Easter Flower Sponsorships:** Orders and payment are due to the church office no later than Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are available at the Welcome Table in the back of the church or by contacting the church office.

**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).

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### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School***

"Open Enrollment" continues, and we are receiving registrations every day! Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, and Third grades are expected to fill up early. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register.

Our weekly chapel services are every Wednesday at 9:15 am. Parents and families are always welcome to join us!

PACE is hosting a pancake brunch in the hall on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> following the 10:15 am. worship. All are welcome to attend!

SPES is hosting an electronics upcycling/recycling event through March 20<sup>th</sup>. We are collecting old, working, or broken tv's, computers, stereo equipment, electronic games, cameras, toasters, microwaves, etc. If possible, please include the power cord and remote. For a list of all items accepted or questions, visit [www.upcyclellc.com](http://www.upcyclellc.com) or call 973-575-5800. Items may be dropped off to the school lobby during school office hours (M-F 8a-3:45p) or on Sundays before 11 am.