

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School

Our Mission: Learn God's Truth,

Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 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.* O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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**

**READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34** *International Children's Bible*

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

"Look, the time is coming," says the Lord,

"when I will make a new agreement.

It will be with the people of Israel  
and the people of Judah.

It will not be like the agreement  
I made with their ancestors.  
That was when I took them by the hand  
to bring them out of Egypt.  
I was a husband to them,  
but they broke that agreement," says the Lord.  
"I will make this agreement  
with the people of Israel," says the Lord.  
"I will put my teachings in their minds.  
And I will write them on their hearts.  
I will be their God, and they will be my people.  
People will no longer have to teach their neighbors  
and relatives to know the Lord.  
This is because all people will know me,  
from the least to the most important," says the Lord.  
"I will forgive them for the wicked things they did.  
I will not remember their sins anymore."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:20-33** *International Children's Bible*

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival.  
Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his  
death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: LBW # 106 "In the Hour of Trial"**

- 1 In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me,  
lest by base denial I depart from thee.  
When thou seest me waver, with a look recall;  
nor from fear or favor suffer me to fall.
- 2 With forbidden pleasures should this vain world charm,  
or its sordid treasures spread to work me harm,  
bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane,  
or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.
- 3 Should thy mercy send me sorrow, toil, and woe,  
or should pain attend me on my path below,  
grant that I may never fail thy hand to see;  
grant that I may ever cast my care on thee.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

**MESSAGE: OBEDIENCE** *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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.

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

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

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

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.

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

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships.

Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions.

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

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill.

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

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

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love.

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

In Honor of the birthdays of Mandy and Lucy.  
Given by the Harry family.

To the Glory of God and Blessings upon  
Ms. Ruth Diepold for her 100th birthday.  
Love, Kathy and Lyle Shull.

In Loving Memory of my dad,  
Clayton Williams, on his March 19th birthday,  
and In Honor of my son,  
Kevin, on his March 14th birthday.  
Given by Anita Gladstone.

*Rose Vase*

In Honor of Ruth Diepold's March 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
With all my best wishes, Genevieve.

*Additional bouquets (separate vase) are from the wedding  
of Holly Frederick and Sean Vogt on March 16, 2024.*

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

In Honor of my Godmother,
Lois Volz, on her March 18th birthday.
Given with love from Donna.

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Attendance for March 10, 2024: 57

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

### **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*

*–Irish blessing*

**Thank You** to everyone for your cards, prayers, and visits while Betty was in the hospital and after her passing. They have meant a lot to my family and me. –Nolan Weinreich and family.

**Palm Sunday** is next week (3/24)! We will be celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion for 8 young people. Please join us in these celebrations.

**Penny Harvest:** Only 2 weeks left for our Sunday school collection. If you've filled a jar with pennies, please return it to a Sunday school participant. If you need a jar, see Heather Frederick. The Sunday school students agreed that the money from the jars would go toward purchasing Bibles for the Gideons. Please return all jars on Easter Sunday.

**We have exciting news!** You can now make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** St. John's (8808 Harford Rd., 21234) on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am.-12 pm. Join us for an event full of activities and Easter celebrations. Ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, bring your own basket or bag, rain or shine! For more information call the church at 410-665-1234.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234) on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3 pm. This FREE event is for children ages 12 and under and includes the hunt, crafts, snacks, and prizes. For more information, contact 443-415-5824.

**Mid-week Lent Worship & Prayer:** Join us in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) for worship and prayer at 11:30 am. on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Our gathering will be followed by fellowship and lite lunch. If you're staying for the lunch, please bring your sandwich, we'll provide the drinks and side dish. Join us for good fellowship and meaningful mid-week devotion!

**Pancake Breakfast:** All are invited to celebrate Easter from 7-11 am. in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday. Enjoy fresh, hot pancakes with your favorite toppings!

**Easter Break:** The church office and school will be closed from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Holy Week Worship Schedule**

**Passion/Palm Sunday:** 9:30 am., with 1<sup>st</sup> communion

**Maundy Thursday:** 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel, 7:00 pm. in the church

**Good Friday:** 7:00 pm. in the church

**Easter Sunday:** 6:30 am. gather in Grace Chapel; 8:45 & 10:15 am. in church

Prayers for the Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week will be in bulletins on Palm Sunday and posted on our Facebook page and website.

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. on 4/7 and 28 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am on 3/31 and 4/7 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Prayer Group:** Are you hoping to keep up "Jesus Time" as we slide into spring? TRY US on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access). Thirty minutes, minimum, of talking to God and each other, at a mid-week time of renewal!

**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.

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News from St. Peter's Elementary School

"Open Enrollment" for the 2024-25 school year continues. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

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

Thanks for the congregation's support of our on-site Scholastic Book Fair! It was a rousing success. While the on-site book fair has ended, you can still order books on-line at scholastic.com and search for St. Peter's Elementary School under the "Book Fair" tab. On-line orders will be taken through 3/17.

SPES is hosting an electronics upcycling/recycling event through April 23rd. They're collecting working and non-working electronics, including: computers, monitors, tvs, small kitchen appliances (blenders, toasters, etc.), electronic game devices, and much, much, more! Lists of acceptable items are located on the bulletin board at the red awning door and the bulletin board in the church office hallway (or available upon request). For additional items not on the list, contact Lauren at lauren1@upcyclellc.com.

PACE invites everyone to a spaghetti lunch in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 7th after the 10:15 am. worship!

SPES Annual Art Show in the hall on Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm. Come see the artistic talent of the students in our school!