

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, Confession of Peter

January 18, 2026, Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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### The CHURCH'S GATHERING

#### **CONFESSiON and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen**



We turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in  $\ddagger$  Jesus' name. May their Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen**

#### **GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

The gracious love of God, the faithfulness of Jesus Christ,

and their Spirit's overflowing joy, is with you all. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your church firm on the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### GOD'S WORD

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 49.

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
    pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,  
    while I was in my mother's womb God named me.

God made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand God hid me;  
    God made me a polished arrow,  
    in his quiver God hid me away.

And God said to me, "You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
    I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
    and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to God,  
    and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
    and my God has become my strength— God says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
    to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
        and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD,  
    the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
    the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,  
    princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

This is God's Word and our life.

**SECOND READING: John 1:35-42** *Contemporary English Version*

This is a reading from the gospel of John, chapter 1.

The next day, John was there again [at the Jordan], and two of his followers were with him. When he saw Jesus walking by, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God!" John's two followers heard him, and they went with Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them, he asked, "What do you want?"

They answered, "Rabbi, where do you live?" The Hebrew word "Rabbi" means "Teacher."

Jesus replied, "Come and see!" It was already about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him and saw where he lived. So they stayed on for the rest of the day.

One of the two men who had heard John and had gone with Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother and tell him, "We have found the Messiah!" The Hebrew word "Messiah" means the same as the Greek word "Christ."

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. And when Jesus saw him, he said, "Simon son of John, you will be called Kephas." This name can be translated as "Peter."

This is God's Word and our life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-19      *Contemporary English Version***

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi, he asked them, "What do people say about the Son of Man?"

The disciples answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet."

Then Jesus asked, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus told him, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn't discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So I will call you Peter, which means "a rock." On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the realm of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything you don't allow."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"**

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one; holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay; come, with all your lovingkindness, hear your people as they pray; and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.
- 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faithful all the gifts they ask to gain; what they gain from you forever with the blessed to retain; and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

4 Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,  
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

**MESSAGE:**      ***The Rock***      *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, Will, Bea, the Diepold family, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude Ruth and all the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that God's rule will appear, as Jesus has 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**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. You have drawn us to your heart. Send us with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING and PEACE**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise, bless + you now and forever. **Amen**  
"Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light.

**And it shines upon everyone who lives  
in the land of darkest shadows."**

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

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Confession of Peter

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is framed by two commemorations, the Confession of Peter (a relatively recent addition to the calendar) and the older Conversion of Paul. Both apostles are remembered together on June 29, but these two days give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place.

Today's Sponsorships

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Joey Mills on his January 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

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

In Honor of the 10th birthday of
Chelsey Marie Volz, on January 19th.
Given by her grandparents, Lois and Fred Volz.

In Honor of Joey Mill's January 23rd birthday.
Given by the Sykes family.

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Attendance for Sunday, January 11, 2026: 27

### ***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

**Please Note: The church office and SPES will be closed on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**2026 Offering Envelopes:** Contact the church office for your envelope number or to have your envelopes mailed to you.

**Baltimore Luth. School/Concordia Prep School Alumni Assn. Bull and Oyster Roast:** Saturday, January 31st from 7-11 pm. at Rosedale Gardens (8037 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Food, DJ, door prizes, raffles, 50/50, and more! Proceeds benefit the Concordia Prep Alumni Scholarship Fund. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Lutheran Mission Society. Tickets are \$60/person or \$550/table of 10. If you would like to reserve a table, you must purchase a full table in advance, noting the names of the people who will be sitting at the table. Ticket prices will increase after 1/21. Individual tickets will be \$70 at the door (cash or check only) while space is available. Tickets can ONLY be purchased at:

<https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/sf-001C0000014W5RiIAK/events/vevt:927dd32a-3487-4af9-93f5-a6b06a8552f2/home/story>

**Bull & Oyster Roast:** Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10:30 pm. at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). This event is being hosted by St. John's, Parkville, and proceeds benefit their church building fund. Food, DJ, dancing, raffles, and silent auction. Tickets are \$55/adult and \$50 for children ages 20 and under). Ticket purchases are requested no later than January 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact tony (443-474-2727) or the church office (410-65-1234).

**Day of Renewal:** Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am.-2 pm. at the Church of the Nativity & Holy Comforter (419 Cedarcroft Rd., 21212). The Synodical Women's Organization invites all women of the ELCA to this event featuring as the speaker, Dr. Jennifer Houston McNeel, Registration is \$8/person and due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Sallie Gartside at [sallieabn@aol.com](mailto:sallieabn@aol.com) or 410-218-2614. (Registration form available from the church office).

**Valentine's Day Dance:** Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-11 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Admission is \$20/person and includes: soda, wine, chips, pretzels, and live music! Guests are invited to bring their own beer, bottle and food. Contact Elaine Wagenfuehr at [melainepenn@gmail.com](mailto:melainepenn@gmail.com) or 443-854-1490, or Denise Loverde at [trueblueforever2006@yahoo.com](mailto:trueblueforever2006@yahoo.com) or 410-207-6389.

**Shrove Tuesday Dinner:** Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234) invites you to a pancake supper and pretzel making! Admission is free. Call the church office for details (410-444-5171).

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers on 2/1, 15, & 22, and bulletins on 2/1 (contact the church office).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

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

Open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year has begun! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Referrals are always welcome!

**Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser:** Dine-in or carry out, Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-10 pm. at the White Marsh location (8207 Town Center Dr., 21236). St. Peter's ES earns 10% of all food purchases (when flier is presented). Fliers are in the church office lobby, the Narthex, or by contacting the school.

**Upcoming Open Houses:** Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm., Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 pm., and Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30 pm. Contact the school office for more information.