

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

We confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all our offenses. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God, **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**



God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in us, pours God's love into our hearts, and gives us life and peace. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God Almighty,  
Sovereign, † Son, and Spirit, are always with you.  
**And also with you. A brief silence.**

Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.** Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

This is a reading from Genesis, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chapters.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of

every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is holy Wisdom, God’s holy Word.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

This is a reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned– for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is holy Wisdom, God’s holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed Jesus on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to Jesus, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 504 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

- 3     Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.
- 4     God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
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**MESSAGE:**         *Tested*                     *silence for reflection follows*

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg,

John, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, Will, Bea, Kathy, our at-home worshippers, ...  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for Christ's forgiveness, 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**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy One, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through the Word of God sent into this world, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless us ☩ now and always.  
**Amen**

Forgiven and freed in Christ, we share his peace  
with neighbors and strangers, the poor and outcast – all God's children.  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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**Today's Sponsorships**

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

In Honor of the birthdays of Jimmy (February 19<sup>th</sup>),  
Heather (February 26<sup>th</sup>), and Holly (March 4<sup>th</sup>).  
Given with love by their mother, Janice Frederick.

In Honor of our grandson, Theo's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

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

In Loving Memory of Betty Weinreich on the  
anniversary of her passing, February 29, 2024.  
Given by Nolan Weinreich and family.

In Loving Memory of Aunt Betty Weinreich.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for Sunday, February 15, 2026: 39

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

**Please Note: The church office will be closed on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**One Call Notifications:** If you have had recent issues receiving One Calls (robo calls) from the church and/or school AND you have an iPhone, please save the One Call number (410-665-4521) in your contacts list. In 2025, the iPhone had an update where users could opt in for a spam filter. Therefore, if you haven't saved the One Call number, it may be going to spam. If you still aren't receiving messages after saving the One Call number, please contact their customer service at 877-698-3262.

**Easter Flowers:** Help decorate St. Peter's Easter "garden" on the altar! Please return the completed order form to the CHURCH OFFICE no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>. More details on the attached order form.

**2025 Giving Statements** have been mailed. If you don't receive yours by March 6<sup>th</sup>, please contact the church office.

**Lent at St. Peter's:** Pr. Lans will be presenting *The Small Catechism* via Zoom on Thursdays at 7 pm., beginning March 5th. Contact the church office for the link.

**St. Peter's Annual Meeting:** Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> between services.

**Concordia Choir Concert:** Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. at The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen (5200 N. Charles St., 21210). The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements. The choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Tickets can be purchased at [ConcordiaTickets.com](http://ConcordiaTickets.com) or at the door.

**Camp Day at Mar-Lu-Ridge:** Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-4 pm. at the pavilion (3200 Mar Lu Ridge Rd., Jefferson, MD 21755). Everyone is welcome to join us for an afternoon of games, camp tours, snacks, crafts and activities for all ages. This day is for campers and families, or anyone interested in seeing what we have been up to recently! No RSVP necessary, just come join the fun.

**Spring Work Day at Mar-Lu-Ridge:** Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 am.- 3pm. (3200 Mar Lu Ridge Rd., Jefferson, MD 21755). It's that time of year again! Join us for projects and chores as we ready the camp for a busy spring and summer season. All ages and abilities welcome! Breakfast served at 8am in Agape Hall. Lunch served at noon. Please RSVP to mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org.

**Rest and Recharge on the Ridge:** Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-5:30 pm. Hiking, mindfulness, yoga, hymn singing, arts and crafts, hammocks, nature activity guides, and a light meal at 4:30. Mar-Lu-Ridge (3200 Mar Lu Ridge Rd., Jefferson, MD 21755) is hosting this free event for you to find a quiet space to reconnect with nature, engage in a favorite creative hobby and recharge your soul. Email mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org to RSVP.

**Sponsorship Available:** Bulletins on 3/29 (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.

**Give to St. Peter's On-line!** Did you know that you can make offering donations and sponsorship payments 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. When submitting your donation or payment, you can note what it's for. It's THAT easy!

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

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

**World's Finest Chocolate** fundraiser ends February 27th! Last chance to purchase a bar, or two, from an SPES student or the school office!

**Open House:** Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30 pm. Contact the school office for more information.



In celebration of the resurrection of Christ, our family of St. Peter's places Easter flowers in the Sanctuary. The sweet smell and beauty of these flowers always makes Easter very special here. If you would like to place an order, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by **3/15/26**.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RETURNED**  
**TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 15th.**

Leave your completed order form in the church office on the secretary's desk, in the "Church Secretary" mailbox, or mail it to the church (Attn: Easter Flowers). Payment can be cash or check (payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church) in the offering plate or mailed (Attn: Finance/Easter Flowers), or through PayPal using our tag: @Spl367 or searching for *St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School*.

**Each flower is \$8 and comes in a covered 6" pot.**

Please designate the number of flowers you wish to order.

\*Colors will vary and are chosen by the florist.

Flowers may be picked up after 8:45 & 10:15 am. worship services on Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lily**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hyacinth\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tulip\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **Martha Washington Geranium\***

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Ordered by (if different than sponsor name/s):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_