

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Second Sunday of EASTER, April 7, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The CHURCH'S GATHERING

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.
We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen**

In hope, we seek reconciliation and renewal in Jesus' resurrection life.
Silence for prayer and 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**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY

The grace of our Savior Jesus, **who rose from the dead,**
the love of God, **who brings hope to a broken world,**
and the fellowship of Spirit, **who awakens our hearts to life,**
are always with you. **And also with you.**

We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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: Acts 4:32-35 *Contemporary English Version*
While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 4th chapter.
The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed Jesus'

followers, and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone in need.

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1–2:2

Common English Bible

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

This is a reading from John's first letter to the believers, the 1st chapter.

We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

This is Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 *Contemporary English Version*

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

**This is the Holy Gospel of the Resurrection of Christ,
as the Word was given to John, the 20th chapter.**

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared

in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book. But these are written so that you will keep on having faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you keep on having faith in him, you will have true life.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

***HYMN of the DAY: # 376 "Thine Is the Glory"**

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

MESSAGE: **NO FEAR** *silence for reflection follows*

The CHURCH PRAYS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love.

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

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

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

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.

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

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain.

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

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.

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

We especially pray for John, Genevieve, George, Agnes, Nancy, Louisa, ...

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel. Grant us your peace amid our fears.

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

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

MISSION PRAYER

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts and service that we offer be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray that we may do God's will, 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

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope bless † you now and always. **Amen**

PEACE

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

Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who, at the age of twenty-five, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler's rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler's life and sent to Buchenwald, then to Schönberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schönberg prison, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, "This is the end, but for me the beginning of life." *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes a hymn (626) by Bonhoeffer, "By Gracious Powers."

~~~~~

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.

~~~~~

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

For the Glory of God.

~~~~~

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

In Honor of Emma Rose Volz's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Given by Nanny and Pop.

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

**Easter Break:** The church office and school will reopen on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Spaghetti Lunch:** Join the church and school families on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> for a spaghetti lunch in the hall following the 10:15 am. worship. The event is free, but a free-will donation is appreciated.

**Easter Flowers left after services on April 7th are free to a good home.**

**Sponsorship Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. on 4/28 (contact the church office).

**We have exciting news!** You can now 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.

**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.

~~~~~  
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!

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!

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 available upon request. For additional items not on the list, contact Lauren at laurenl@upcyclellc.com.