

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Second Sunday of Easter, April 12, 2026

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

~~~~~

**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ † is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Holy One, we bring our sins to you, trusting in the cross and resurrection that wiped them away through Christ our Savior. A *brief silence*.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. Amen**



God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! **Amen**

**PRAYER of the DAY**

The risen and ascended Christ is with you. **And also with you.**  
Holy One, **hear our prayer.** A *brief silence*. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a

man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

This is a reading from Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> letter, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 NRSVUE**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace is with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace is with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace is with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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:**            **SEEING**            *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. We pray for We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Will, Bea, Kathy, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, 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**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Holy One, through the Word of the resurrected life of Christ Jesus, you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and their Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
bless † us now and forever. **Amen**

#### **PEACE**

We are sent to share Good News,  
forgiven and reconciled with all God's people.  
The peace of Christ is with you always.

**Today's Sponsorships**

~~~~~

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

In Honor of Dillon's 6th birthday
and Aidan Heinbaugh's April 28th birthday.
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

In Honor of our daughter, Ashley's birthday.
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

~~~~~

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

In Loving Memory of Henry Volz for his April 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Volz family.

~~~~~

Attendance for Sunday, April 5, 2026: 60

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

The Small Catechism Zoom gatherings will continue intermittently throughout the next few months. Upcoming dates are: 4/16 & 22, 5/14 & 21, and 6/4, 11, & 18. All information will be sent out by email on the afternoon of each Zoom date.

The Chosen (season 4): Tuesdays from 5:15-7 pm., April 14-June 2.

Season 4 explores faith, loss, courage, and what it truly means to follow Christ when the way forward is uncertain. Invite a friend and come for a lite dinner and fellowship at 5:15 pm. followed by a viewing of this uplifting series. April 14 & 21 at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206); April 28 at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234); May 5 & 12 at Ascension (7601 York Rd., 21204); May 19 at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234); May 26 & June 2 at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234).

Quarter Auction: Sunday, April 19th at 12 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Baskets, candy, gift cards and more! Doors open at 12 and games begin at 1. 2 paddles are \$5 Lunch and snacks for sale. Call 410-485-7654 to RSVP and for information.

Community Health & Wellness Fair: Saturday, April 25th from 10 am.-2 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Fair offers free resources and information to support health living for the entire family and includes information about: nutrition, mindfulness, physical activity, and community supports. For more information, contact cphillips@cityneighbors.org, nrobinson@cityneighbors.org, or call 410-325-2627.

Rest & Recharge on the Ridge: Sunday, April 26th from 2-5:30 pm. Hiking, mindfulness, yoga, hymn singing, arts & 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 & recharge your soul. Email mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org to RSVP.

Flea Market & Craft Fair: Saturday, May 16th from 7:30 am.-12 pm. at St. Michael, Perry Hall (9534 Belair Rd., 21236). Vendors are wanted – information and to register, go to www.stmichaelperryhall.org (\$25/space). Rain date 5/23.

DE/MD Synodical Women's Organization's 37th Annual Convention: Saturday, May 16th from 8:30 am.-3:30 pm. at Journey of Faith Church (7902 Liberty Rd., Windsor Mill, MD 21244). This year's theme is Under Her Wings - Motherhood in the New Testament. Registration is \$35, due by April 18th. For more information and/or to register, call Michele Jecelin at 410-925-2662.

Afternoon Tea Bus Trip: Thursday, June 18th, hosted by St. John, Brooklyn (226 Washburn Ave., 21225). Tea Trolley Tearoom in Delta, PA with first stop at The Markets of Shrewsbury. Cost \$110 (food, transportation, tax, gratuity and driver tip included). The bus will leave St. John parking lot at 10 am. and return at 5 pm. Information and reservations, contact Leslie at 410-969-0129. Deadline for Reservations and payment in full due by June 14. This is an annual fundraiser to support the programs and ministries of St. John.

Save the Date: St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234) will be hosting their annual Summer Music & Arts Camp July 27th-August 4th from 9 am.-3 pm. Registration will be open in mid-late May.

Secretary Position Available: Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in Word and PowerPoint. Applicants must also have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others as well as have good communication skills. Interested parties should call St. Matthew Lutheran Church office (410-335-4210).

Sponsorship Available: Bulletins on 4/19 (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

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

Upcoming: Open Houses on April 18th from 12-2 pm. and May 7th from 6:30-7:30 pm. NEW THIS YEAR: Shadow Day on Wednesday, April 22nd from 9 am.-3 pm. Contact the school to RSVP for these events.