

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Third Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2026

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

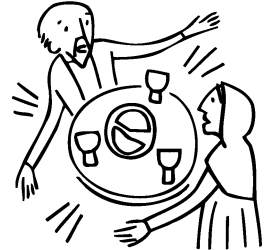
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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**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.* O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

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: "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

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

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now on that same day two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?"

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 367 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"**

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

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**MESSAGE:**            **HEARING**            *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.*

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. 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.*

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. 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.

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**Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783;
scientists**

Remembering scientists such as Copernicus and Euler offers an opportunity to ponder the mysteries of the universe and the grandeur of God’s creation. Copernicus is an example of a renaissance person. He formally studied astronomy, mathematics, Greek, Plato, law, medicine, and canon law. He also had interests in theology, poetry, and the natural and social sciences. Copernicus is chiefly remembered for his work as an astronomer and his idea that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the solar system. Euler (OY-ler) is regarded as one of the founders of the science of pure mathematics and made important contributions to mechanics, hydrodynamics, astronomy, optics, and acoustics.

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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 our daughter, Rachel’s birthday.
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

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Attendance for Sunday, April 12, 2026: 31

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

**The Small Catechism** Zoom gatherings will continue intermittently throughout the next few months. Upcoming dates are: 4/22 & 29, 5/6, 14, 21, & 27, and 6/4 & 11. June 18<sup>th</sup> TBD. All information will be sent out by email on the afternoon of each Zoom date.

**Easter flowers remaining after services on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> will be given to a good home.**

**Sponsorship Needed:** Altar flowers for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office.

**Quarter Auction:** Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 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).

**Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cphillips@cityneighbors.org), [nrobinson@cityneighbors.org](mailto:nrobinson@cityneighbors.org), or call 410-325-2627.

**Rest & Recharge on the Ridge:** Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org) to RSVP.

**Flea Market & Craft Fair:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stmichaelperryhall.org) (\$25/space). Rain date 5/23.

**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 27<sup>th</sup>-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).

**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:** NEW THIS YEAR: Shadow Day on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am.-3 pm. Open House on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm. Contact the school to RSVP for these events.