

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**  
**Second Sunday of Easter, April 27, 2025**

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ☩ the One who was,  
who is, and who is to come. **Amen**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, we confess our need for God's absolution and reconciliation.

*A brief silence.* 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 Christ Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace, mercy, and peace of God are with you,  
today and always. **And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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**

**READING: Revelation 1:4-8**

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

This is a responsive reading from the Revelation of Christ, chapter 1.  
John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus



Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen**

**Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him; and on his account  
all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

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

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked in fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be 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 be 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 be 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, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come 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:**        **PEACE**        *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel

stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way.

*A brief silence.* We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Agnes, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that God's will is done, 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**

**MISSION UPDATES:** *opportunities for learning & service*

### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, we return to you. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **BLESSING**

O God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way  
with resurrection dawn, now and forever.

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.

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

In Loving Memory of Frank Alkire's April 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

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

In Honor of our daughter-in-law,  
Jill Volz, for her April 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Lois and Fred Volz.

In Honor of Mae Bast's May 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Volz family.

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

**Please welcome Mrs. April Blahut**, the new principal of St. Peter's Elementary School! Mrs. Blahut will be installed today!

**Thank You** for your kind words, prayers, support, and cards for my family at my father's passing. We greatly appreciate our St. Peter's family.

–Joy Mayne and family.

**Easter Flowers:** Many thanks to our Easter flower sponsors for helping to decorate the church with God's beauty! If you sponsored Easter flowers, you are welcome to take them after today's worship. Please initial the check list on the Lectern. Any flowers remaining after Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> will be given to a good home.

**REMINDER: The church office and SPES will be opening on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 5/18 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 5/11 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Prayer Group:** On Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, join us at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) for our final "Fruit of the Spirit" and final gathering (until the fall). We'll be discussing and praying about **self-control**. We hope to see you there!

**Baskets, Bags & More Bingo:** Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for St. John's, Parkville. The bingo will be held at St. Ursula Auditorium (8900 Harford Rd., 21234), doors open at 6 pm. and games begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20/person in advance and \$25 at the door. Event includes regular and special games, 50/50, door prizes, and raffles. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. For tickets or more information, call tony at 443-474-2727 or the church office at 410-665-1234.

**Designer Purse Bingo:** Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Doors open at noon and games begin at 1 pm. Tickets are \$25/person in advance or \$30 at the door. There will be 20 games of regular bingo, specials, door prizes, and a 50/50. Food and drinks will be available for sales; BYO beer or wine. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Kim at 443-415-5824 or the church office at 410-444-5171.

**Neighbor In Need:** There is a nearby neighbor who is in need of someone to do minor repairs and ongoing work (ie., yard work, light cleaning, food shopping, etc.). If you are able and interested in helping, please contact Joy in the office (410-665-7300) for contact information.

**Clothes Needed:** Lutheran Mission Society's Compassion Place HQ is in need of children's clothes and men's large clothes. Donations can be dropped off at 601 Hammonds Ln., 21225.

**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](http://EasternSavingsBank.com).

**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 & PACE***

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register for the 2025-2026 school year. Referrals are always welcome!