

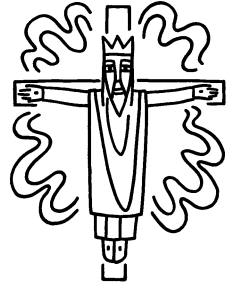
**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.***  
**Reign of Christ Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

November 23, 2025

*Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship*

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*



**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen**

Trusting in God's mercy, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this word into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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: Jeremiah 23:1-6**

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Juda's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 23.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my

flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."  
This is God's Word, our hope.

**SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20**

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

This is a responsive reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 1. *Paul writes:* I pray that you will be grateful to God for letting you have part in what God has promised his people in the realm of light. God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the realm of his dear Son, who forgives our sins and sets us free.

Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen.

**He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation.**

Everything was created by him,  
everything in heaven and on earth,  
**everything seen and unseen,  
including all forces and powers,  
and all rulers and authorities.**

All things were created by God's Son,  
and everything was made for him.

**God's Son was before all else,  
and by him everything is held together.**

He is the head of his body, which is the church.

**He is the very beginning,  
the first to be raised from death,  
so that he would be above all others.**

God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son.

And God was pleased for him to make peace  
by sacrificing his blood on the cross,

**so that all beings in heaven and on earth  
would be brought back to God.**

This is God's Word, our hope.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 23:32-43**

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and King, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and King is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised criminal to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, the soldiers crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked Jesus, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 434 "Jesus Shall Reign"**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **Royal Command**        *silence for reflection follows*

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Lynn, Will, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, or Lord. **Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer**. *A brief silence.* Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

So that all the world may be fed, 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**

#### **BLESSING and PEACE**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  
bless † you now and forever. **Amen**

*Paul wrote:* "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

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

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**Today's Sponsorships**

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

For all the women in our family:  
Nana, Elizabeth, Mom, and Gail.  
Given by the Gasiorowski family.

In Celebration of Amanda Smith's  
and Mark McQuade's November birthdays.  
Given by the family.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

With thankfulness for all of God's blessings.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for November 16, 2025: 37  
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**Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100**

Clement was the third bishop of Rome and served at the end of the first century. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the Corinthian congregation, still having difficulty with divisions in spite of Paul's canonical letters. Clement's writing echoes Paul's. "Love ... has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others." Clement's letter is also a witness to early understandings of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

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

**Poinsettias:** Help us decorate the altar for Christmas! Each plant is \$8. Order forms and payment are due to the church office no later than Sunday, November 23rd.

**Thanksgiving Worship:** Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. in Grace Chapel.

**Thanksgiving Closings: St. Peter's Elementary School will be closed from 11/26-11/28. The church office will be closed on 11/27 & 28.**

**Prayer Group:** Join us for a mid-week pick-up on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access). We continue the "Whatever" series with "whatever is JUST." Try us! You're bound to like us!

**Basket Bingo:** Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Luke's, Dundalk (1803 Dundalk Ave., 21222). Doors open at 5:30 pm. and games begin at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Lite supper and refreshments available for purchase. Door prizes, raffles, and special games. For more information call Kathe (410-458-8364) or Michelle (443-570-3701).

**Christmas Bazaar:** Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am.-1pm. at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Photos with Santa, creative crafts, cookie walk, homemade desserts, flea market items, jewelry, raffles, and train garden.

**WELCA Christmas Bazaar:** Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9a-1p. at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Craft and vendor tables (\$20/table if selling items), items that are priced for children to get a gift for a loved one, Breakfast with Santa (\$7/adult and \$5/child under 10), seafarer item collection, and Toys for Tots collection. For vendor table contact Michele Jecelin at [jmjecelin1018@gmail.com](mailto:jmjecelin1018@gmail.com).

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 12/7, 14, & 21 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 11/30 and 12/14 & 28 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**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.

**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***

It's not too late to enroll for the 2025-2026 school year! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!