

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Seventh Sundy of Easter ~ Ascension of Christ, May 17, 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.* Almighty God, your blessed  
Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might  
fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides  
with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others.  
Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience  
derision from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide  
us.*

This is a reading from the apostle Peter's first letter to the church,  
the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> chapters.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place  
among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to

you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your siblings in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 17:1-5**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that his work will continue in this world through their shared glory.*

This is a reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 17.

After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-49 and Acts 1:3-14**

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit. The reading from Luke's Acts of the Apostles is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

This is the Holy Gospel for the Ascension of Christ.

After appearing to them on the evening of his resurrection, Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all

nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to the followers by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the realm of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 825 "You Servants of God"**

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!
- 2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,  
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!

- 3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right,  
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **Witness**                    *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.*

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. 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, Linda, Bud Gahs and family on the passing of his daughter Sue, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of Sue and all who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. 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**

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

In Honor of Aunt Shirley Weinreich on her May 23rd birthday.
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for Sunday, May 10, 2026: 25

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

**Memorial Day Closure:** The church office and SPES will be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day holiday as we remember those in the armed forces who died in service to our country.

**The Chosen (season 4):** Tuesdays from 5:15-7 pm. 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. May 19 at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234); May 26 & June 2 at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234).

**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.

**Women's Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, May 23 from 9:30 am.-12 pm. at All Saints' (4215 Loch Raven Blvd., 21218). Guest preacher, Rev. Lamont Brown will be presenting. Join us for a relaxed morning of food, connection, and spiritual encouragement. Cost is \$30/person. To purchase tickets, contact Donna Jolley at 443-743-4762 or [jolleydonna941@yahoo.com](mailto:jolleydonna941@yahoo.com).

**Free Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Saturday, May 30 from 10 am.-2 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave.). Learn the importance of healthy eating habits, mindfulness, staying active, and utilizing helpful resources.

**Afternoon Tea Bus Trip:** Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Christmas In July:** Saturday, July 25 from 3-7 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Traditional spaghetti dinner and dancing to the music of the Monaldi Brothers family band. Admission is \$20/person and a new unwrapped toy. Please call 410-687-4621 for tickets, and note that there are steps to the parish hall.

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

**Sponsorships Needed:** Bulletins for June 7<sup>th</sup> and altar flowers for July 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office to sponsor.

**Clothing Shed:** St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234) has a clothing shed. Please consider donating gently used clothes, linens, shoes, belts, blankets, purses, and stuffed toys (no housewares).

**Secretary Position Available:** Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others, and 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!

**Family Fun Day** is scheduled for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 pm. All are invited!