

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
1st Sunday after Pentecost, Feast of the HOLY TRINITY
May 31, 2026

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,  
living with us in love, peace, and joy,  
whose compassion and faithfulness  
are with us forever. **Amen**



We confess our sin to God, our guide and guardian.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* Compassionate God,  
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

The Spirit of Christ is with you. **And also with you.**  
Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–2:3** *International Children's Bible*  
*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

This is a responsive reading from Genesis, chapters 1 & 2.

**FIRST DAY**

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. **God saw that the light was good.** So he divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." **Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day.**

#### SECOND DAY

Then God said, "Let there be something to divide the water in two!" So God made the air to divide the water in two. Some of the water was above the air, and some of the water was below it. God named the air "sky." **Evening passed, and morning came. This was the second day.**

#### THIRD DAY

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear." **And it happened.** God named the dry land "earth." He named the water that was gathered together "seas." **God saw that this was good.**

Then God said, "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." **And it happened.** The earth produced plants. Some plants had grain for seeds. The trees made fruit with seeds in it. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. **God saw that all this was good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day.**

#### FOURTH DAY

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days and years. They will be in the sky to give light to the earth." **And it happened.**

So God made the two large lights. He made the brighter light (the Sun) to rule the day. He made the smaller light (the Moon) to rule the night. God also made the stars. God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth. They are to rule over the day and over the night. God put them there to separate the light from the darkness. **God saw that all these things were good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day.**

#### FIFTH DAY

Then God said, "Let the water be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth."

So God created the large sea animals. God created every living thing that moves in the sea. The sea is filled with these living things. Each one produces more of its own kind. God also made every bird that flies. And each bird produces more of its own kind. **God saw that this was good.** God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones and grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth." **Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day.**

## SIXTH DAY

Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." **And it happened.**

So God made the wild animals, the tame animals and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. **God saw that this was good.**

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. God created them male and female. God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God said, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. I have given all the green plants to all the animals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal." **And it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.**

## SEVENTH DAY

So the sky, the earth and all that filled them were finished. By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day God rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. God made it holy because on that day he rested. God rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

*Common English Bible*

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

This is a reading from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Finally, beloved community, good-bye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet each other with a holy kiss. All of God's people send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20**

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 673 "God, Whose Almighty Word"**

- 1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessed three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,

through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **CREATION**        *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the children of our church and community. Provide for their needs. Support their caregivers. Nurture their faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Provide for all who hunger. Protect those in harm's way. Comfort any experiencing hardship. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Will, Bea, Kathy, Linda, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal promises. Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Seeking God's will, 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.* 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**

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 Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Dawn Heinbaugh's June 2nd birthday.
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

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

In Loving Memory of Betty Weinreich for her June 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Nolan Weinreich and family.

In Honor of our grandson, Jacob, on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by LaLa and Pop (Donna & Joe Mills).

The McQuade family extends congratulations to the  
St. Peter's Elementary School graduates of 2026:  
Sephia Perez and Kylar Russell.

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Attendance for Sunday, May 24, 2026: 35

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

Church Office Summer Hours: Beginning on Tuesday, May 26th, the church office will be open M-Th 9a-3p, F 9a-12p.

Hymn Sing Sunday: On Sunday, July 5th, we will join together with one service at 9 am. To make this an extra special worship, we'd like to incorporate some of your favorite hymns! Please submit your top three selections by Sunday, June 21st to the church office.

The Chosen (season 4): Tuesday, June 2nd from 5:15-7 pm. at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Invite a friend and come for a lite dinner and fellowship at 5:15 pm. followed by a viewing of this uplifting series.

Flea Market: Saturday, June 6 from 8a-12p at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234).

Towson Move-Out Yard Sale: Saturday, June 6 from 9am-12p at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Rd., 21204).

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, June 13 from 8a-1p at Jerusalem Lutheran (4605 Belair Rd., 21206).

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.

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.

Food Truck Nights: Wednesdays at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Continues weekly through August.

Brats & Beer: Fridays from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202) Continues monthly through August.

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!

Summer Children's Programs & Vacation Bible Schools

To Mars & Beyond VBS: June 22-26, 5:30 pm. dinner, 6-8:15 pm. program. Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206, 410-485-7654).

David VBS: July 10th from 5:30-7:30 pm. – Kick-off party with a movie about David. July 11th from 10 am.-3 pm. – Crafts, games, and learn more about the David story. Second Presbyterian Church (4200 St. Paul Street) Children from 4 years old to those who've just completed 5th grade are welcome to attend. A \$10 donation per child is requested. For more information and to register go to: <https://secondpresby.org/vbs-2026-registration/>.

Travel to Rome – Paul & the Underground Church VBS: July 27th-31st from 11 am. – 2 pm. Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-668-8080). For ages 4 and up. Lunch will be served.

Rainforest Falls VBS: July 27th-31st. St. Michael's, Perry Hall (9534 Belair Rd., 21236).

Kids Summer Arts Camp: July 27th-August 7th (Monday-Friday) from 9 am.- 3 pm. St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-444-5171). For kids who've completed 1st-5th grades. Includes lunch & snacks, fun & creative activities, music making, dance & movement, making art, dinner & closing performance. Professional staff. Registration is \$250/student and is open now!