



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome! Throughout Scripture, heaven is often described as a place of joyful feasting. The readings for this Sunday offer both warning and comfort. The warning is that we not disregard God's gracious invitation -- issued through Christ -- to join His heavenly banquet table. The comfort is that, in Christ, death itself will be swallowed up. The feast is ready, come to the feast!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting One
LSB page 151

The Preparation

Prelude: “Schmucke dich, o liebe seele.” – J. G. Walther

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution (page 151)

*Kyrie
eleison*

The Service of the Word

Opening Hymn: 458 (v. 1-3) Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands

Kyrie (page 152 - sung)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise This Is the Feast (page 155)

C: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day (responses are sung)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty God,

You invite us to trust in You for our salvation.
Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgement
but by the greatness of Your mercy;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 23



¹ The LORD is my | shepherd;*
I | shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in
green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.

³ He re- | stores my soul.*
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his | name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil, for you are | with me;*
your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my | enemies;*
you anoint my head with oil; my
cup | overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the
LORD for- | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-13 (see back cover)

Alleluia Verse (page 156)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14 (see back cover)

Acclamations (sung): **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Praise to you, O Christ.



Nicene Creed (inside back cover of hymnal)

Hymn of the Day: 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sermon

Prayers After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

Fog/ Bahn families	Death of Andrew Bahn, Allison's cousin	Fog
Melton/Yost families	Death of Mrs. Melton, Jon's grandmother	Yost
Reetz family	Death of Betty in a car accident	Hofer
Caldwell family	Death of Ralph	Teschke
McCarthy/Gering/Rousseau families	Death of Marla	Dunbar

For those with long-term health concerns:

Sue Nelson	Claire Haenisch	Kay Compton	Pat Dietz
Karen Nelson	Judy Grube	Art Garrow	Kay Compton
Nathan Wilhelm	Mina Ciquis	Bob Van Hise	Bob Latimer
Brennan	Phillip Trivett		

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jane Chmielecki	Kathy
Edward Keenan	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	

For those serving in the armed forces:

Jake Grube	LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Daniel Gewecke
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For those suffering around the world:

War in Europe	Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision
War in Middle East	Prayers for peace and forgiveness

Birthdays:

Greg Barrett	Oct 19	Cheryl Cudmore	Oct 19
Peter Johnson	Oct 19		

The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Komm heiliger Geist” – G. Bohm

Congregational Offertory: “What Shall I Render to the Lord” (page 159)

C: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Order of Holy Communion (page 160)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising you and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: Words of Institution

Pax Domini (page 163)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

Agnus Dei **C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymn: 633 (v. 1-4, 7) At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Post Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis (page 165)

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction (page 166)

Closing Hymn: 644 The Church's One Foundation

Postlude: "Erhalt uns Herr" - J.G. Walther



Announcements – Week of October 15, 2023

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week Tues., Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 – 3:00 to help.

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Dave deDufour (Usher), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Audrey deDufour and Lesley deDufour (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Sunday Bible Study. Week 2 of our Ecclesiastes study will address the question - where do we find fulfillment? The Preacher seeks fulfillment in education, pleasure, and material success. But none of these can provide us with ultimate meaning. Only when we submit our plans to the greater will of God and trust in His goodness will we truly be fulfilled. Read Ecclesiastes 1:12 - 3:15 to prepare. Find the study guide at <https://stpeternj.org/archives/2826>

Sunday School Classes. Sunday School classes for all ages have restarted! Amy Van Hise is our elementary teacher, and Hope Dunbar teaches our high school youth. Classes meet during the adult bible study hour from 8:15-9:15am in the lower level of the church. Let's grow together in God's Word this year!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our study begins at Acts 13:16 and Paul's sermon at a synagogue in Antioch (Pisidia). To a Jewish audience Paul unabashedly preaches Jesus as the Son of God, as proven by his resurrection from the dead. In Jesus we gain our freedom from God's judgment under the Law! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - www.stpeternj.org)

Special Reformation Service. St. Peter is once again joining with three other area LCMS congregations to sponsor a joint Reformation Commemoration Service. It will be held on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville. The service will be followed by a potluck dinner. All are invited to attend! If you'd like to participate in our Reformation choir, please talk to Chris Fusco or Pastor.

Invitation to be a Church Usher. If you would like to join the many members of our congregation who usher for our Worship Service, please contact Bob Maguire. We would love to add some women and couples to our team! Usually ushers are scheduled once every 2-3 months. We have developed an instructional guide to help you learn everything you need to know for this simple but essential part of our service. Come join us!

Flowers. A Flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion. The suggested donation is \$25.

This service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/hWHadvZv2uY?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Join us after worship in recognition of Kim Robinson. Today we will honor Kim's 15 years as our church administrative assistant! Come enjoy some fellowship and a special gift presentation to show Kim our appreciation for her devoted service!

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.



St. Peter's Ladies Fall Tea. You are cordially invited to our Ladies Fall Tea on Saturday October 21, 2023 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up for you to bring your favorite tea treat specialty. Please feel free to bring a friend, mom, or daughter, etc! Suggested attire is Tea Party Dress, and bring a favorite tea cup. We're looking forward to a fun time! (RSVP to the Church Office.)

Service and Other

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to next year's box packing event, we are collecting certain supplies during each month. For October we're focusing on combs (need 50) and toothbrushes (need 80), so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

Food Pantry. If you can, please remember to grab non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. October's collection is PASTA: penne, rigatoni, spirals, bow ties, spaghetti, linguini, lasagna, and pasta sauce. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the hall sign-up.

Faithfulness Report (10/8) Attendance 44

General Fund: \$ 4180 Flowers: \$25 Loan angel: \$650 Missions: \$10

(Weekly contributions of approximately \$6,000 are needed to meet our Congregation approved 2023 budget.)

Website and Facebook. Our website is at stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>.

Weekly Schedule.

TUESDAY (10/17)	12:00pm Planning Council; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (10/18)	7:30pm Zoom Bible study
THURSDAY (10/19)	9:45/11:45am Nursery School Chapel services
FRIDAY (10/20)	12:00pm NOAH Seniors lunch at Sky Cafe
SATURDAY (10/21)	10:00am-12:00pm Ladies Fall Tea
SUNDAY (10/22)	8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

Other Important web links.

NJ District LCMS

njdistrict.org

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

lcms.org

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast

lhm.org

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6–9

- ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-
aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged
wine well refined.
- ⁷ And he will swallow up on this
mountain
the covering that is cast over all
peoples,
the veil that is spread over all
nations.
- ⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away
tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he
will take away from all the
earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
- ⁹ It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have
waited for him, that he might
save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited
for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his
salvation.”

Epistle: Philippians 4:4–13

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I
will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”