



# 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

## Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*November 19, 2023*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome!** As winter approaches and the hours of daylight grow shorter, how much more do we value the light we do have! We can draw a parallel to the Bible's teaching on these latter days before Christ returns. Paul calls us "children of light, children of the day" and urges us to reflect the light of Christ in our daily living. As the world around us grows darker, groaning under the weight of its sin and brokenness, how precious is the light that God shines on us and through us.

**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:** “Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele” – J. G. Walther

**Words of Welcome**

**Invocation, Confession, and Absolution** (page 151)

***The Service of the Word***

**Opening Hymn:** 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty and ever-living God,

You have given exceedingly great and precious promises  
to those who trust in You.

Dispel from us the works of darkness

and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
that our faith may never be found wanting;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



**Old Testament Reading:** Zephaniah 1:7-16 (see back cover)

## Psalm 90



<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our | dwelling  
place\*  
in all gener- | ations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought  
forth, or ever you had formed the  
earth | and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting | you  
are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return | man to dust\*  
and say, "Return, O chil- | dren of  
man!"

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are  
but as yesterday when | it is past,\*  
or as a watch | in the night.

<sup>5</sup> You sweep them away as | with a flood;\*  
they are like a dream, like grass that  
is renewed in the | morning:

<sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and | is  
renewed;\*  
in the evening it fades and | withers.

<sup>7</sup> For we are brought to an end by  
your | anger;\*

<sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities be- | fore  
you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of  
your | presence.

<sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away un- | der  
your wrath;\*  
we bring our years to an end | like a  
sigh.

<sup>10</sup> The years of our life are seventy, or  
even by reason of strength | eighty;\*  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we | fly away.

<sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of  
your | anger,\*  
and your wrath according to the | fear  
of you?

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number | our days\*  
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

**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:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (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 25:14-30 (see back cover)

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

**Nicene Creed** (see inside back cover of hymnal)

**Children's Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:** 664 Fight the Good Fight

**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:***

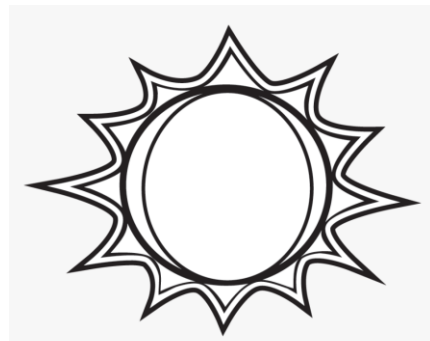
Beck family	Death of Ed	Dunbar
Weiss family	Death of Chickie	Teschke
Pittore family	Death of Spring	Teschke
Fresco family	Death of Cecilia	Teschke

***For those with health concerns:***

Pastor John Babbits	Claire Haenisch	Jim Steimle	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Judy Grube	Emma	Kay Compton
Linda	Mina Ciquis	Bob Van Hise	Tom Reside
Brennan	Phillip Trivett	Joe Sansone	Sue Nelson
Ursula	Gloria Garefino	Marge	

***For those with cancer:***

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



For you are all children of light,  
children of the day.  
1 Thessalonians 5:5

*For those serving in the armed forces:*

Jake Grube

LJ Lupinacci

Carrick Porter

Nate Fiske

Daniel Gewecke

*For those suffering around the world:*

War in Europe

Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine

War in Middle East

Prayers for peace and forgiveness

Prayers for health, safety, and provision

Prayers for peace and forgiveness

**The Service of the Sacrament**

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

Instrumental Offertory: “Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier” - J. G. Walther

Congregational Offertory: 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (st. 1,2)

**C: We give thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our first-fruits give!**



**Order of Holy Communion** (page 160)

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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**

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: 761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Post Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord (page 181)

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of  
thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Benediction** (page 166)

**Closing Hymn:** 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**Announcements**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord;

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Interlude in D" – Anonymous



**Announcements – Week November 19, 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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Bob Maguire (Usher), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Maryann Reside and Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

**Sunday Bible Study.** In week 7 of our Ecclesiastes study, the Preacher talks about the importance of living generously and finding joy in our youthful years. Suggested reading is Ecclesiastes 11:1 - 12:7, but not required! Come and join our discussion. Find the study guide at <https://stpeternj.org/archives/2853>

**Sunday School Classes.** Sunday School classes for all ages are going strong! Elementary through High School 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!

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/RiaYipDKltk?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.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our discussion will cover the second half of Acts 16. This includes another imprisonment for the apostle Paul and the conversion of a Philippian jailer. Once again, we'll see how God used less than ideal circumstances as a mission opportunity for the Church. (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org))

**Last Tuesday's Service of Healing.** We were so thankful to minister to those who attended this peaceful, reflective, and renewing service. What a blessing to serve both congregation and community members! Many thanks to those who were able to help with this special lay-led service.



**Community Churches Thanksgiving Potluck.** How nice to share a time of gratitude and praise with fellow Christians from our community! It was good to see all who could attend.

**Midweek Advent Services:** Advent is a season in the church year that helps prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. With so many distractions this time of year, the world needs Advent more than ever! In this year's midweek Advent services we'll learn about three historical figures who carried the hope of Christ in their hearts and helped manifest His Light in the world:

Wed. Dec 6 at 7:30pm - Nicholas of Myra

Wed. Dec 13 at 7:30pm - Lucia of Syracuse

Wed. Dec 20 at 7:30pm - Katharina von Bora Luther (Youth-Led Service)

**Youth-led Advent Service:** Young people of all ages are invited to participate in our youth-led Advent service on Wednesday, Dec.20th at 7:30pm. We'll have a couple practices in December to get organized so look for more info coming on that. Ways to be involved include:

- ushering and acolyting

- solo/group music and singing

- reading

- sharing a written reflection on a reading

- other creative ideas??

Talk to Pastor Jon or Hope if you're interested in participating. All are welcome!

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

**Last Call for Directory Photos!** If you haven't had your family photo taken for our new church directory yet, now is the time! Kim Robinson will be available after worship THIS SUNDAY to take your picture. Thank you in advance for helping us create this very useful resource, especially for our newer members.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry.** The Prayer Shawl ministry team has distributed 18 prayer shawls during the month of October. Twelve of those were given to the Veteran's Hospital. What a blessing!

**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.

## *Service and Other*

**Operation Christmas Child.** As we look forward to next year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For November we could use **washcloths (need 70)** and **toddler socks (need 30 pr)** and **toddler bath toys (need 25)**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. November's collection is PERSONAL PRODUCTS: body wash, shampoo, conditioner, pads, liquid hand soap, bar soap, and dish detergent. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

**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.

**Faithfulness Report** (11/12) Attendance: 49

General Fund: \$ 3705 Debt reduction:\$ 25

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

**Website and Facebook.** Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!



**Weekly Schedule.**

TUESDAY (11/21)	Noon Planning Council Meeting; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (11/22)	7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship (*No Zoom Bible Study*)
THURSDAY (11/23)	Thanksgiving Day (Church Office closed)
SUNDAY (11/26)	8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship



**A Look Ahead.** Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, November 22	7:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, December 6 & 13	7:30 pm	Advent Services
Wednesday, December 20	7:30 pm	Youth-led Advent Service
Saturday, December 9	10–noon	“Crafts, Carols, and Christ”, <i>a Nursery School and Church collaboration</i>
Sunday, December 24	9:30 am	Sunday Advent Service
Sunday, December 24	5 pm & 7 pm	Christmas Eve Services
Monday, December 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Service

**Other Important web links.**

NJ District LCMS	<a href="http://njdistrict.org">njdistrict.org</a>
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	<a href="http://lcms.org">lcms.org</a>
LCMS World Relief and Human Care	<a href="http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief">lcms.org/ca/worldrelief</a>
“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast	<a href="http://lhm.org">lhm.org</a>





**Well done** 

*Thou good and faithful servant*

M A T T H E W                      2 5 : 2 1



## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading:

#### Zephaniah 1:7–16

- <sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the Lord is near;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.
- <sup>8</sup> And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—  
"I will punish the officials and the king's  
sons  
and all who array themselves in foreign  
attire.
- <sup>9</sup> On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.
- <sup>10</sup> "On that day," declares the Lord,  
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,  
a wail from the Second Quarter,  
a loud crash from the hills.
- <sup>11</sup> Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
- <sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with  
lamps,  
and I will punish the men  
who are complacent,  
those who say in their hearts,  
'The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do ill.'
- <sup>13</sup> Their goods shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them."
- <sup>14</sup> The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.
- <sup>15</sup> A day of wrath is that day,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

### Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For

you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14–30

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"