



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org

pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Our mission:

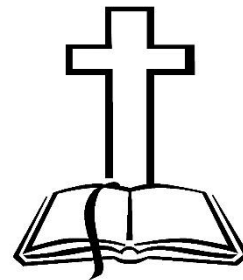
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome! There are so many voices speaking in the world today - on TV and radio, and online. Which ones do we trust? Questions about truth and authority in the public sphere are as relevant today as ever. Moses was a great prophet - a mouthpiece of God - in the Old Testament, but he pointed to One who would be greater still. When Jesus arrived, people were astounded at the authoritative manner of his speaking. And he had the deeds to back it up! Listen to God's voice above all, and you will never be led astray!

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 cry room 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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C have mercy on us.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and truth. Amen.

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.
C Thanks be to God!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (v. 1-3)



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

[illegible]

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...
(Refrain)

Pastor: *Assistent:*



Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Cong: *Congregation:*



A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

for ev - er. *To refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

all things new. *To refrain*

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

You know that we live in the midst of so many dangers
that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.

Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (see back cover)

PSALM: Psalm 111 (Spoken responsively)

P: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to
the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the
congregation.

**C: Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

P: Full of splendor and majesty is his
work,
and his righteousness endures
forever.

**C: He has caused his wondrous works
to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

P: He provides food for those who fear
him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**C: He has shown his people the power
of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of
the nations.**

P: The works of his hands are faithful and
just;

all his precepts are trustworthy;

**C: they are established forever and
ever,
to be performed with faithfulness
and uprightness**

P: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant
forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

**C: The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom; all those who
practice it have a good
understanding.**

His praise endures forever!

**All: 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.**

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (see back cover)

ALLELUIA VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Mark 1:21-28 (see back cover)

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**



APOSTLES' CREED (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

HYMN OF THE DAY 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

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

For comfort:

Steve Hauptman and family
Dudridge family
Sharpe family

Death of Jeri
Death of Marie
Death of Audrey

Farley
Teschke
Van Hise

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina
Tom Reside
Bob Latimer
Marge Carr

Fran Bryzinski
Claire Haenisch
Harry Tinsman
Mina Ciquis

Kay Compton
Ursula
Phillip Trivett
Brennan

Rich Decee
Pat Dietz
Keith Riley
Cathy Akers

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner
Rich Knechel
Carol Tezla
Edward Keenan
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling

Yolanda Piekaoskey
Rose Bonecki
Karen Shevchuk
Kathy Lamkin
Nancy Gilliland

Rich deDufour
Aaron Kline
Jane Chmielewski
Mary Ellen
Anna Mantel

Lynn
Linda
Kathy
Mary Ann

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci Carrick Porter Nate Fiske Jake Grube
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)

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

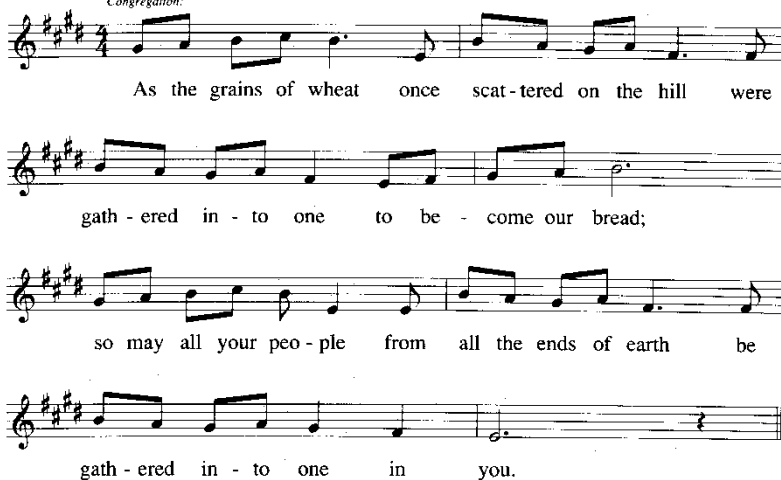
Birthdays

Jim Steimle Feb 2 Anneliese Thieme Feb 3

OFFERING

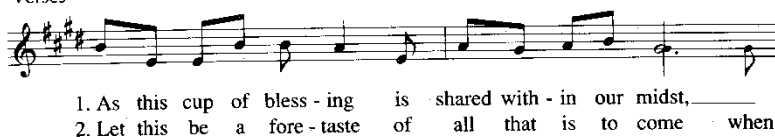
Refrain

Congregation:



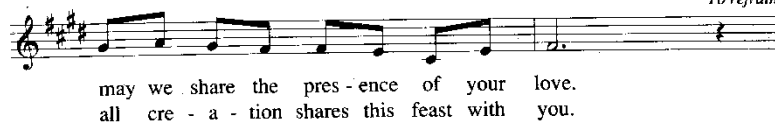
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C And also with you.
C We lift them to the Lord.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...
C Amen.

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy (LSB p. 208)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

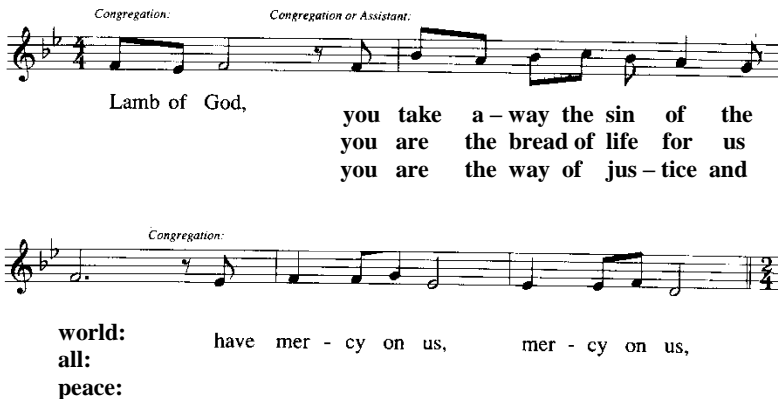
PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

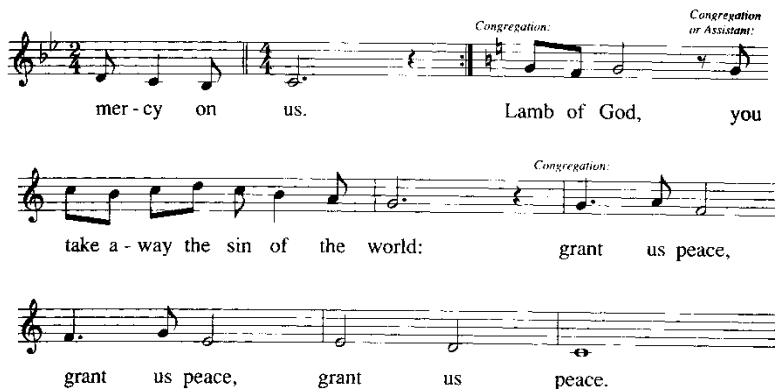
AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God*

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the
you are the bread of life for us
you are the way of jus-tice and

world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
all:
peace:



DISTRIBUTION 550 Lamb of God

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (v. 1, 4-5)

POSTLUDE



Announcements – Week of January 28, 2024

**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: Bill Kianka (Communion Assistant), Jesse Dunbar (Reader), Tyson Wilhelm (Usher and Live-streaming), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Lillian Maguire and Shirley Yost (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/cUD38VOFLIY?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.

Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday (1/28) will be part 4 our 6-week topical study on God's calling on our lives - "Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here?". We'll discuss the doctrine of vocation. How do we go about deciding on a career path, or marriage and family? How do we know if we're doing God's will? And how do we balance work and family responsibilities? These and other common questions will be the subject of our study.

(Announcements cont'd)

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Next week (1/31) we will begin at Acts 18:18. We learn about important contributions of other Christian evangelists like Apollos, as well as the husband and wife team, Priscilla and Aquila. They were not in competition with Paul, but worked together to encourage and even correct one another in service to the Gospel of Jesus. What a great model this is for ministry today. Come and join our conversation! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - www.stpeternj.org)

Lutheran Basics Class for New Members. Would you like to learn more about Lutheranism? Interested in becoming a member of St. Peter? Pastor Jon is offering a 4-week class that covers the basics of Lutheran teaching and what it means to be a member of the congregation. For more info, talk to Pastor. You can reach him at pastor@stpeternj.org or call (402) 641-4813.

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

We need your updated data! The final step of getting our directories out to you is to verify your important information so we are completely current. We would also like to make sure our membership data is confirmed in our computer system. Please grab a purple form, fill it in, and drop it in the office to help us out.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them in January!

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

Midwinter Lecture on Religious Freedom. *What does the Constitution say about religious freedom? And how does that impact how we practice our Christian faith? Did you know that one of the most important Supreme Court cases on religious freedom in recent years involved an LCMS school?*

Join us on Sunday, February 4th at 3pm for a lecture titled: "Religious Freedom in US Law and Policy: Introduction and Recent Developments" by our own Christopher Fusco, JCL, Esq. Chris serves as in-house legal counsel for the Diocese of Metuchen as well as moderator of the diocesan Tribunal, and is well-versed in this pertinent subject. The event will open with Evening Vespers and conclude with refreshments following the lecture. All are welcome, free of charge. This event is sponsored by Partners in Mission.

Lenten Services & Meals. Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. Beginning **February 14th (Ash Wednesday)**, join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. We'll follow the Lenten theme: "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High". Borrowed from the title of a beautiful hymn (LSB 544) and based on Ephesians 3:17-21, this sermon series will focus on the enormous dimensions of God's merciful love for sinners in Christ, with the goal of helping us more fully comprehend and rejoice in "the breadth and length and height and depth" of that love as we experience it through Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. **Starting on February 21, come early at 6pm and enjoy our Lenten soup supper with friends!** Look for more information about these meals on the church bulletin board or talk to Leslie Klesat.

See you at the Annual Voters' Assembly TODAY right after service. We'd love to have everyone there to see the presentation from NJDU participants- find out what's ahead in 2024!

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For January we could use **mini spiral notebooks (need 50)**, and **6"x 9" writing tablets (need 30)**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

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.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **January's collection is paper products – paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues.** You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

Faithfulness Report 1/21 Attendance: 42
Gen Fund: \$ 3729 Mission & Vision: \$750

(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, 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 (1/30)	4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (1/31)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (2/1)	9:40/11:50am Nursery Chapel Services; 7pm NJDU Zoom Mtg.
SUNDAY (2/4)	8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship; 3pm Mid-Winter Lecture: Religious Freedom

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

This week's Bible memory verse challenge: Isaiah 30:15

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through

former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.