



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

## Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*February 4, 2024*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome** "Omnipotence" It's a fancy Latin word that means "all-powerful". It's also a key attribute of God's character and a theme running through our readings today. The greatness and majesty of His Creation can leave us feeling small, weak, and perhaps even insignificant at times. But in addition to God's supreme power, Scripture also testifies to His tender concern for weak people (Isaiah 40:31), His delight in those who fear Him (Psalm 147:11), and His desire to heal us (Mark 1:34). Praise God for His omnipotence!

**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** “Trumpet Tune” – H. Purcell

### 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.

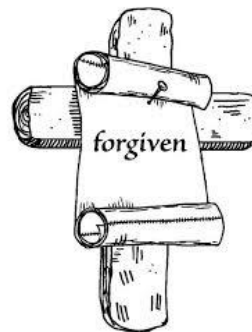
*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**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** 868 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

*Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

*Assistant:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have

mer - cy.

*Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have

mer - cy.

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)

Assistants:

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

Congregation:

A - - - men.

Cong:

## 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.

O Lord,

keep your family the Church continually in the true faith

that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace,

we may ever be defended by Your mighty power;

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 40:21-31 (see back cover)

**PSALM:** Psalm 147:1-11 (Spoken responsively)

P: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing  
praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of  
praise is fitting.

**C: The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

P: He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**C: He determines the number of the  
stars;  
he gives to all of them their  
names.**

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in  
power;  
his understanding is beyond  
measure.

**C: The Lord lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the  
ground.**

P: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre!

**C: He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.**

P: He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.

**C: His delight is not in the strength of  
the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the legs of a  
man,**

P: but the Lord takes pleasure in those  
who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast  
love.

**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 9:16-27 (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 1:29-39* (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** 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (1-3)

## 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:*

Behnfeldt/Galli families  
Dudridge family  
Sharpe family

Death of Rose  
Death of Marie  
Death of Audrey

Behnfeldt  
Teschke  
Van Hise

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

Ekaterina  
Tom Reside  
Bob Latimer  
Marge Carr  
Lydia Bloom

Fran Bryzinski  
Claire Haenisch  
Harry Tinsman  
Mina Ciquis

Kay Compton  
Ursula  
Phillip Trivett  
Brennan

Corrine  
Pat Dietz  
Keith Riley  
Cathy Akers

#### *For those with cancer:*

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

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  
Judy Grube

***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***

Nicholas Wilhelm	Feb 4	Robert Dorsett	Feb 8
Linda Steimling	Feb 5	Lynda Newton	Feb 9
Rudy Kraus	Feb 7		

**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*

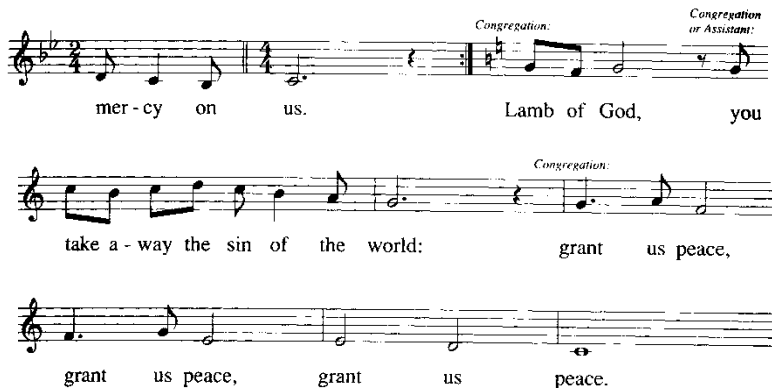
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

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



**DISTRIBUTION** 727 On Eagle's Wings

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN** 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (1-3,7)

**POSTLUDE** "Trumpet March" – J. Lully



## Announcements – Week of February 4, 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: Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant and Reader), Bill Kianka (Usher), ? Live-streaming), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Maryanne Reside and Amy Van Hise (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/eB4LgfdkAvA?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 (2/4) will be part 5 our 6-week topical study on God's calling on our lives -"Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here?". Dr. Biermann will tackle two areas of responsibility that can sometimes make Christians uncomfortable -- giving and witnessing. How can a better understanding of God's Law and our vocation remove some of our discomfort and help us serve God and neighbor more effectively?

## (Announcements cont'd)

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Next week (2/7) we will begin at Acts 19:1. Paul and friends travel to Ephesus where he begins a very productive 2-year period of ministry. We hear more examples of the Holy Spirit falling upon new believers with miraculous gifts. By the name of Jesus, evil spirits are driven out and the Word of the Lord "prevails mightily" in that place. Join with us in learning more!! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - [www.stpeternj.org](http://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](mailto: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 pink 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!

**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 TODAY 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.

**NOAH and all seniors** are invited to enjoy a fun filled PIZZA and BINGO afternoon in the St. Peter fellowship hall at noon on Friday, February 23. Bring a friend. A free will offering (suggest \$7) will be taken to offset the cost of the pizza. Sign up on the bulletin board. NOAH Planning Committee – (Bill Kianka, Hank and Jean, Jim and Shirley, Norm and Leslie)

**Operation Christmas Child.** As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For **February** we could use **children's or costume jewelry**, and **handheld pencil sharpeners (need 50)**, 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. **February's collection is Fruits, Juices, and Condiments – canned fruits, fruit juices, mayo, mustard, ketchup, canned tuna, and lunch bag stuff.** You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

**Faithfulness Report** 1/28    Attendance: 68    Gen Fund: \$3792    Joyful Response: \$585  
Missions: \$25    Loan angel: \$1300    Thrivent: \$250

**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 (2/6)	1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (2/7)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (2/8)	9:30-2pm Circuit Pastors Meeting @ Bordentown
SATURDAY (2/10)	7:30am Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (2/11)	8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship

### **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>

**This week's Bible memory verse challenge:** *Isaiah 40:31*

*...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.*

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

### Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 40:21–31

- <sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear?  
Has it not been told you from the  
beginning?  
Have you not understood from the  
foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the  
earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a  
curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as  
emptiness.
- <sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the  
earth,  
when he blows on them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like  
stubble.
- <sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
that I should be like him? says the Holy  
One.
- <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name,  
by the greatness of his might,  
and because he is strong in power  
not one is missing.
- <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my  
God”?
- <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.
- <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he  
increases strength.
- <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew  
their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like  
eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

### Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16–27

<sup>16</sup>If I preach the gospel, that gives me no  
ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon

me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

<sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward,  
but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with  
a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That  
in my preaching I may present the gospel free  
of charge, so as not to make full use of my right  
in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made  
myself a servant to all, that I might win more of  
them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to  
win Jews. To those under the law I became as one  
under the law (though not being myself under  
the law) that I might win those under the law.  
<sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one out-  
side the law (not being outside the law of God  
but under the law of Christ) that I might win  
those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became  
weak, that I might win the weak. I have become  
all things to all people, that by all means I might  
save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel,  
that I may share with them in its blessings.

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the  
runners compete, but only one receives the  
prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every  
athlete exercises self-control in all things. They  
do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an  
imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do  
not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I disci-  
pline my body and keep it under control, lest  
after preaching to others I myself should be  
disqualified.

### Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

<sup>29</sup>Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and  
entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with  
James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law  
lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told  
him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by  
the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left  
her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to  
him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.  
<sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together  
at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were  
sick with various diseases, and cast out many  
demons. And he would not permit the demons  
to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>And rising very early in the morning, while  
it was still dark, he departed and went out to  
a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And  
Simon and those who were with him searched  
for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him,  
“Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup>And he said to  
them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I  
may preach there also, for that is why I came  
out.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee,  
preaching in their synagogues and casting out  
demons.