

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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The Ascension of Our Lord

May 12, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Graduation time is fast approaching! Young men and women toss their caps into the air with shouts of joy. We clap and cheer their achievements, and ask them about future plans. Jesus' ascension into heaven was, for him, a kind of graduation day. Having humbled himself to serve and die for the sins of the world, now he is exalted in heavenly glory at his Father's right hand. We rejoice that our future is securely with him, as he reigns over us and all creation for our benefit!

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: “Jesus, meine Zuversicht” – J. G. Walther

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution (page 151)

The Service of the Word

Opening Hymn: 537 Beautiful Savior

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 Gloria in Excelsis (page 154)

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

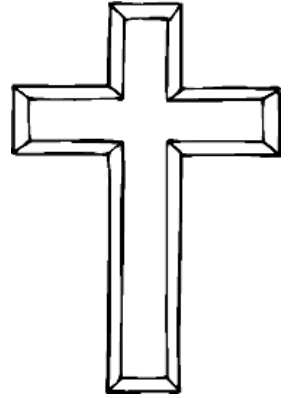
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty God,
as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
ascended into the heavens,
so may we also ascend in heart and mind
and continually dwell there with Him,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47



¹ Clap your hands, all | peoples!*
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

² For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be
feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.

³ He subdued peoples | under us,*
and nations un- | der our feet.

⁴ He chose our heritage | for us,*
the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.

⁵ God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

⁶ Sing praises to God, sing | praises!*
Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!

⁷ For God is the King of | all the earth;*
sing praises | with a psalm!

⁸ God reigns over the | nations;*
God sits on his | holy throne.

⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the
people of the God of | Abraham.*
For the shields of the earth belong to
God; he is highly ex- | alted!

**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: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Alleluia Verse (page 156)

**C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for[a] the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Nicene Creed (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious

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:

Metz family	Death of Jim	Farley
Randolph family	Death of Joan	Teschke
Greenberg family	Death of Charles	Dunbar
Helen’s family	Death of Helen	Teschke
Johnson/Wendland families	Death of Bill	Johnson
Ehley family	Death of Leo	Reside
Trent family	Death of Lillie	Techke

For those with health concerns:

Betty Kay Foster	Adam Butera	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Pat Dietz	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Valerie Nebbie
Beverly	Pete Serone	Phillip Trivett	Maryanne Reside
Brennan	Zane	Marci Fehlhofer	Pastor Derek Taylor
Jared Casper			

For those with cancer:

Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda (and housing)
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Barbara	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Judy Grube
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Gunter	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Jane Fry			

For those with needs 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 God's guidance in U.S. response
Flooding and disasters in US	Prayers for help and rebuilding

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman (son)
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon			

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For the needs of the nursery school families	For full 2024-25 enrollment
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Birthdays:

Chrissy Grube	May 13	Susan Miller	May 15	Bob Van Hise	May 15
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The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Congregational Offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord" (LSB 955)

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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...

Pax Domini (page 163)

Sharing of the Peace: (Please share the peace with one another with the words:

“The peace of the Lord be with you.”, “And also with you.”)

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, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn: 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

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: 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Announcements

Dismissal: P: Go in peace, serve the Lord;

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: “Erschienen ist der Heilige Tag” – J. S. Bach



Announcements – Week of May 12, 2024
Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Jason Bloom (Communion Assistant and Live-streaming), Jenna Bloom (Reader), Fred Grube and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Judy Grube and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion/coffee set-up and clean up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/7CmzzLtqv9Y?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.

A special Mother's Day greeting to all the mothers in the congregation today! What a blessing you are to your families and our fellowship!

Confirmation Sunday. Coming up on **Sunday, May 19th** we will witness five young people of our congregation professing their faith in Jesus Christ and being received as confirmed members of St. Peter. They are: Juliet Behnfeldt, Lydia Bloom, Liam McAllister, Nathan Wilhelm, and Andy Wright. Come celebrate their maturing faith at a dessert reception after the worship service!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Next week (5/15) we will begin at Acts 21:17. Paul meets with James and other church leaders in Jerusalem. They ask Paul to dispel rumors about his preaching among Jews by taking part in an Old Testament purification ceremony. Even today, Christians disagree and judge one another over matters neither commanded nor forbidden in God's Word. How do we handle these issues in a loving way? Come and learn with us!

Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday we'll continue our study of the 7 Signs (Miracles) of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Today's topic: **Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9:1-41)**

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

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

St. Peter's is Saved to Serve! Check out how you are shining Christ's light at work, in civic and social organizations, in your recreation, etc. and see where God is sending us out each Sunday after worship and through the week!

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: 5/5/24: 64 in person; 6 online

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4,368 Bld Fund: \$25 Loan Angel: \$650

Computer (live-stream): \$500 Flowers: \$125

"Books and Breakfast": Another Opportunity to Serve! We are again looking for helpers for the Books and Breakfast program at Turning Point UMC, Trenton on Saturday, May 18th -- 7:00am or 9:00am shift. Those who helped out last month said it was a great experience! Volunteers cook and serve breakfast to those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. We'll again be working alongside members of Pennington United Methodist Church. No experience necessary (12 years or older). See the sign-up on the bulletin board or talk to Pastor Jon.

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

Youth Member for Planning Council. One of our church's strategic goals is to mentor young people into positions of leadership in the congregation. For that reason, we're excited to share that Joey Dunbar has been appointed to serve a 1-year term as our first-ever Youth Representative on the Planning Council! In this role, Joey will help shape the mission of St. Peter by participating in discussions, providing input, and learning about the governance of our church. What a blessing to our ministry!

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. To round out this year's donations, we could use **children's or costume jewelry**, and **matchbox cars**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **May's collection is Personal Products** – body wash, bar soap, liquid hand wash, shampoo, conditioner, dish detergent, pads, ...

Weekly Schedule.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY (5/14)

WEDNESDAY (5/15)

THURSDAY (5/16)

SUNDAY (5/19)

Spring Pastors Conference; OUT OF THE OFFICE

6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's

7:30 Zoom Bible Study on book of Acts

9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapel services

8:15am Bible Study/SS;

9:30am Worship w/Rite of Confirmation (Reception following);

6:30pm High School Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

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!

Other Important web links:

NJ District LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast

njdistrict.org

lcms.org

lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

lhm.org

Flowers are given this morning by Scott and Jenn Garrow, in celebration of their 25th Anniversary, and in celebration of Jenn’s mother-in-law’s birthday.

