



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.
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Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. What an encouraging picture! Sheep are vulnerable creatures, whether they like to admit it or not. Jesus warns his flock to avoid thieves and hired hands who are prone to exploit or abandon those under their care. These are warnings we do well to heed today when it comes to choosing whom we follow for spiritual guidance. The words of Christ refresh and sustain us; they are like green pastures and still waters.

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 480 He's Risen, He's Risen



KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Musical score for the first part of the Kyrie. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Assistant:' and the second and third are labeled 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are: 'Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final note on the third staff.

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)

Musical score for the second part of the Kyrie. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Assistant:' and the second is labeled 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are: 'Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final note on the second staff.

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

To refrain




for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:




3. For God has come to dwell with us,



to make us peo - ple of God; to make

To refrain



all things new.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father,
since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,
grant us Your Holy Spirit

that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd
we may know Him who calls us each by name
and follow where He leads;

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

C Amen



FIRST READING: Acts 4:1-12 (see back cover)

PSALM: Psalm 23 (spoken responsively by verse)

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

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

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

⁴Even 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.

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

⁶Surely 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: 1 John 3:16-24 (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. John, the 10th chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord**

John 10:11-18 (see back cover)

After the reading of the Gospel:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

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

For comfort:

Greenberg family	Death of Charles	Dunbar
Helen's family	Death of Helen	Teschke
Carroll family	Death of their daughter, a student at HoVal	Dunbar
Diller family	Death of Jonathan, NYPD officer	deDufour

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Jim Metz	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Columba
Robert Bauer	Pete Serone	Phillip Trivett	Maryanne Reside
Brennan	Pat McSorley	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie
Nathan Wilhelm	Joe Campbell	Hank Van Beuzekom	Jared Casper
Beverly			

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	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
Rosalie Reinbacher			

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman (son)
Daniel Gewecke (Returned to U.S.!)&				

For those with needs 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 God's guidance in U.S. response

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For the needs of the nursery school families

For full 2024-25 enrollment

Birthdays

Fred Grube

April 23

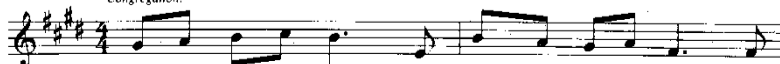
Daniel Gewecke

April 27

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.



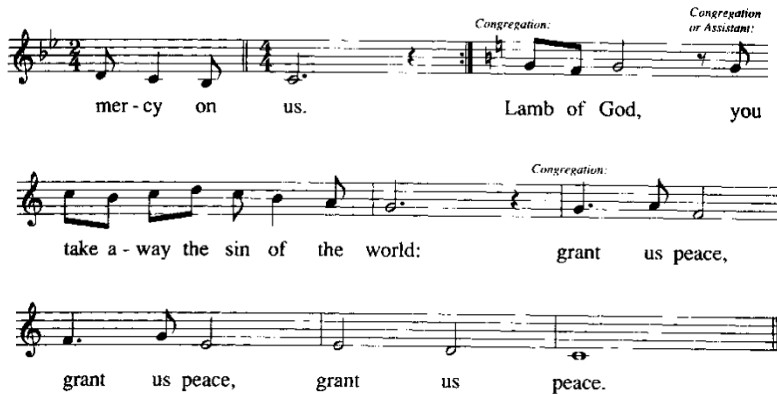
1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, ———
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



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

Congregation:
Congregation
or Assistant:



mer - cy on us, Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION 710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

POSTLUDE



This week's Bible memory verse challenge: *John 14:27*

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.



Announcements – Week of April 21, 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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant and Reader), Jason Bloom and Joey Dunbar (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Lydia Bloom (Acolyte), Shirley Yost 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/SALIKi_dQ-U?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. Next week (4/24) we will begin at Acts 20:1. Paul faced many challenges in his mission travels through Greece, including a plot against his life! But it also included marvelous miracles like the raising of a young man Eutychus from the dead. Come and join our conversation!

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 man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-17)*

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

Books and Breakfast – Yesterday part of our St. Peter family helped to serve with members of Pennington United Methodist Church at Turning Point UMC in downtown Trenton, cooking and serving breakfast to those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity due to poverty. What an important way to help the community.

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!

Baby Shower Reception for Annie and James after church TODAY. Annie and James Allardice (daughter and son-in-law to Kevin and Sue Lauricella) are expecting their first baby! Join the celebration in the fellowship hall after church!

ALL ARE INVITED TODAY to the Pennington United Methodist Church Hymn Sing & Organ Recital, the second program in its 250th Anniversary Celebration series, today, Sunday, April 21st at 3 p.m. A reception follows to meet the musicians and enjoy food and fellowship. A free-will offering will be taken at the door for the church's missions programs. More information is available on the bulletin board.

St. Peter's is Saved to Serve! The way we serve individually in our workplaces, homes, and communities is a way our whole congregation is visible to our neighbors! On a post-it note, jot down how you are shining Christ's light at work, in civic and social organizations, in your recreation, etc. so we can see where God is sending us out each Sunday after worship and through the week!

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.

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. **April's collection is Pasta – penne, rigio, spirals, bow ties, spaghetti, linguini, noodles, lasagna, pasta sauce...**

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: 4/14/24: 62
Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$ 5915 Operation Christmas Child postage: \$250

Weekly Schedule.

SUNDAY (4/21)	6:30pm Sr Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington
TUESDAY (4/23)	6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (4/24)	7:30 Zoom Bible Study on the book of Acts
THURSDAY (4/25)	9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapel services
SUNDAY (4/28)	8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship

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	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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Epistle: 1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how

does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Holy Gospel: John 10:11–18

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”