



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! The mark of a true Christ-centered faith is when we bear the fruit of love for God and neighbor. We see powerful examples of this, as when the Jewish-born Peter accepts a Gentile, Cornelius, into full fellowship in the Church (Acts 10). This love flows down to and through us from Jesus himself, who no longer calls us servants, but friends (John 15:15).

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 “Christ lag in Todesbanden” - H. Scheidemann

Words of Welcome

Easter Greeting (Rev 1:4b-6, 17b-18)

P: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

C: **To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

P: Jesus said, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.

C: **I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



Baptism of Madelyn Hailey O’Connor (p. 268)

Baptismal Hymn: 593 See This Wonder in the Making

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: O God,
the giver of all that is good,
by Your holy inspiration
grant that we may think those things that are right
and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;
through 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 10:34-48 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 98



¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

² The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre,*
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

⁶ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it;*
the world and those who | dwell in it!

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹be- | fore the LORD,*
for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world
with | righteousness,*
and the peoples with | equity.

**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 John 5:9-17 (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: John 15:1-8 (see back cover)

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

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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
Pessalaris family	Death of Maria	Heebner
Randolph family	Death of Joan	Teschke
Greenberg family	Death of Charles	Dunbar
Helen's family	Death of Helen	Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Adam Butera	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Columba
Beverly	Pete Serone	Phillip Trivett	Maryanne Reside
Brennan	Pat McSorley	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie
Jared Casper	Joe Campbell	Hank Van Beuzekom	Betty Kay Foster
Zane	Bell Wendland		

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	Lance		

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

For those serving in the armed forces:

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

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

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

Pastor Jon Dunbar	May 5	Adam Johnson	May 5	Kristin Weiland	May 7	Doug Hill	May 8
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Anniversaries:

Scott and Jenn Garrow	May 8 (25 years)
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The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental 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.

Words of Institution

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.")

C: Agnus Dei **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: 547 The Lamb

Post Communion Canticle: Thank the Lord (page 164)

C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek 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: 462 All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude “Basse de Trompette” - L. Clerambault





Announcements – Week of May 5, 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: Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant and Reader), Bob Maguire and Jesse Dunbar (Ushers), Jesse Dunbar (Live-streaming), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Audrey deDufour and Jeanne Hoppe (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/Dj8XUBpb0WA?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.

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 (5/8) we will begin at Acts 21:1. Paul returns to Jerusalem over the protests of his friends, and knowing full well that he will be persecuted by those who reject his preaching of Christ. In this way, he imitates the sacrificial love of Christ himself. And Paul is sustained by visits to fellow Christians like Philip and James. Come and join our discussion!

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 Walks on Water (John 6:16-21)**

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! The way we serve individually in our workplaces, homes, and communities is a way our whole congregation is visible to our neighbors! 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!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Epistle: 1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and

everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”