

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 www.stpeternj.org

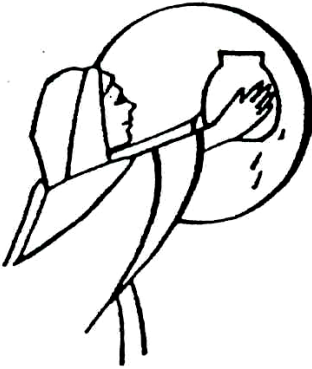
pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director



Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others*

Welcome! The presence of suffering in our world has long been a stumbling block to would-be believers. We may look at it as senseless and unjust, or even as a sign of failure and defeat. Yet, in the Bible we see that God can use suffering for sacred purposes. Christ came to bear a cross as Savior to the world (Mark 8:31). Paul teaches us to "rejoice in our sufferings" (Rom.5:3) not because they are good in themselves, but because God uses them to strengthen our eternal hope.

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 Two

LSB page 167

The Preparation



Prelude: “O Welt, ich muss dich lassen” - J.G. Walther

Words of Welcome

Invocation, 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.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Kyrie (page 168)

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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God,

You see that of ourselves we have no strength.

By Your mighty power

defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body

and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;

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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 22:23-31



²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,* and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him,* but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;* my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!* May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,* and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,* and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;* before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;* it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,* that he has done it.

**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 Reading: Romans 5:1-11 (see back cover)

Lenten Verse (page 173)

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38 (see back cover)

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

Nicene Creed (see inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

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:

Keenan family	Death of Ed	Farley
Cicus	Death of Mina	Teschke
Mallepalle/Pilli family	Death of Rao	Mallepalle
James family	Death of Andy (son)	Waters
Rev. Greg Jans and family	Death of Karen (Greg's mother)	Dunbar

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Fran Bryzinski	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Sue Miller
Bob Latimer	Harry Tinsman	Phillip Trivett	Audrey deDufour
Brennan	Marge Carr	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Charles Greenberg	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Judy Grube
Trudy			



For those serving in the armed forces:

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

Lydia Bloom Feb 27 Bennett Fog Feb 27

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Aus tiefer Not” – G. Bohm

Congregational Offertory: 955 “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

**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.**

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion (page 177)

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, Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. 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...

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



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, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon (page 182)

C: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people;
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

Benediction (page 183)

Closing Hymn: 763 When Peace, Like a River

Postlude: "O Lamm Gottes unschuldig" - J. Pachelbel



This week's Bible memory verse challenge: *Romans 5:8*

...but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



Announcements – Week of February 25, 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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant and Reader), Tyson Wilhelm (Usher and Live-Streaming), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Lillian Maguire and Jeanne Hoppe (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/oCcBM1NApFw?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 we'll discuss the Blessings of Baptism. What is the connection between our baptism and Jesus' death on the cross? Is it possible for a person to lose their baptismal faith and its blessings? How does my baptism help me both throughout my life and at the hour of my death?

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. We're on break from our study of Acts until after Easter. Join us for worship on Wednesdays at 7:30pm through the season of Lent. We'll resume on Wednesday, April 3rd.

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

Lenten Services & Meals. Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. 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.

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, jump ropes, and matchbox cars**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

Flowers. Although flowers will not be placed on the altar during Lent, there is a flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for spring. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion. Suggested donation is \$25.

St. Peter Meal Train. As Pres. Gewecke recovers from double knee surgery and Cheryl returns to work, we would like to help them out with meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the end of March. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin

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: Attendance: 2/14 - 24, 2/18 - 54 (+10 online)
Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$4740
Building fund: \$50

Weekly Schedule.

TUESDAY (2/27) 6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 2pm Pennington Clergy @ St. Peter;
4:30pm Confirmation Class

WEDNESDAY (2/28) 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper; 7:30pm Midweek Lenten Service

THURSDAY (2/29) 9:45/11:50am Nursery School Chapels

SUNDAY (3/3) 8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship;
7pm Concordia Nebraska Choir @ Bethlehem, Ridgewood

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



Lenten/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:

Lenten Soup Suppers	Wednesdays, 6:00 PM, Feb 21-March 20
Midweek Lenten Services	Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Feb 21-March 20
Service of Healing	Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday, March 24, 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, March 28, 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, March 29, 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, March 31, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, March 31, 9:15 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, March 31, 10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading:

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” . . .

¹⁵And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Epistle: Romans 5:1–11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while

we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:27–38

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”