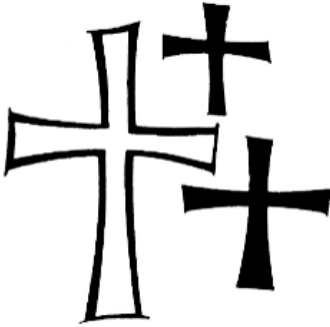


St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hopewell Township, N.J.
(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org
pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org
Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 2025

Our mission:

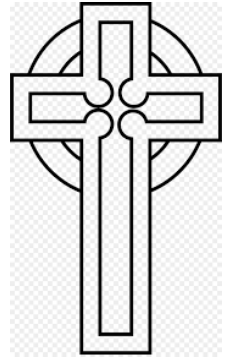
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. Newton's Third Law of Motion states: "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction." We see this principle lived out in human conflicts that escalate out of control. Entire relationships have been destroyed as a result of abusive words or actions that led to harbored grudges and retribution. God's Word today offers us a way out of this mess. Joseph saw God's gracious purposes at work despite the terrible mistreatment he suffered at the hands of his brothers. It was a perspective of faith that enabled him to forgive them (Gen 45). Jesus calls us to love our enemies, an extraordinary -even supernatural (!)- response to hostility (Luke 6) that's inspired by God's quickness to forgive our sins and love us unconditionally.

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 “Cornet Voluntary” - Anonymous

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

OPENING HYMN 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies (st. 1-3)

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Congregation: 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)

Pastor: Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
Congregation: A - - - men.

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
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God,

the strength of all who put their trust in You,
mercifully grant that by your power

we may be defended against all adversity;
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 45:3-15 (see back)

PSALM: Psalm 103



- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless
his | holy name!
- ² Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and forget not all his | benefits,
- ³ who forgives all your in- | iquity,*
who heals all your dis- | eases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life | from the pit,*
who crowns you with steadfast love
and | mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies | you with good*
so that your youth is renewed like
the | eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works | righteousness*
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to | Moses,*
his acts to the people of | Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding
in | steadfast love.

- ⁹ He will not | always chide,*
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.
- ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according | to
our sins,*
nor repay us according to our
in- | iquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are a- | bove
the earth,*
so great is his steadfast love toward
those who | fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is | from the west,*
so far does he remove our
transgres- | sions from us.
- ¹³ As a father shows compassion to
his | children,*
so the LORD shows compassion to
those who | fear him.
- 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 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42 (see back)

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. Luke, the 6th chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 6:27-38

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 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

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:

King Family

Death of Sue

Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Pat McCann	Janice Nuneviller	Barbara	Carol Farley	Mariah Martinez
Chris	Zane	Brennan	Greg	Susan
Beverly	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah	John Tarlo
Ursula	John O'Neil	Sid	Monica Benesch	Terry Farley
Kay Compton	Claire	Rose	Lolly Hoagland	Fran Byrzkinsky
Donna Poucel	Cole Garrow	JoAnne	Phil Unetic	Dottie Brown

For those with cancer:

Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Dick Butterfoss
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Nico Benesch	Linda	Mary Ellen	Mary Anne
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Lexi Launchbaugh	Dora
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Jane Fry	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Barbara Howard	Dottie	Dave Bond	William
Sonia	Barbara	Henry J.	Logan Mattessich
Aunt Jean	Karen Radcliffe	Marci Fehlhafer	Frank Cignus



For those with needs around the world:

Government officials and people of our nation
Those coping with disaster – Himes family
Those in need of employment
Wars in Europe and Middle East
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine

Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Prayers for provision and help
Provision of jobs
Prayers for peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Prayers for health, safety, and provision

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci Carrick Porter Nate Fiske Jake Grube Jim Buckman Emily Arndt
Daniel Gewecke James Bannon Harper Usiskin Jesse Sowell Mike Bahney

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families of the school

For enrollment '25-'26

Birthdays:

Robert Heebner Feb 26 Lydia Bloom Feb 27 Bennett Fog Feb 27

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory “Diapason Movement” – J. Alcot

Congregational Offertory:

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.

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

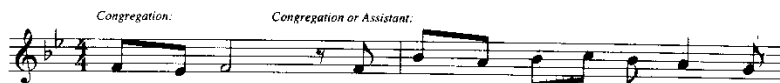
Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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*



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

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 HYMN 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

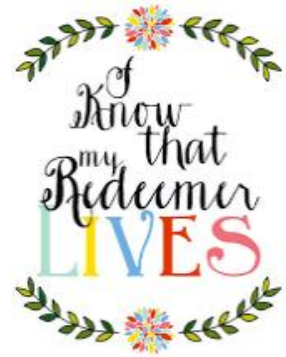
ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott” – J. Vetter



TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Distribution Hymn, LSB 461

I Know That my Redeemer Lives

It is surprising that the man who wrote this hymn had at one time completely rejected his Christian upbringing! Samuel Medley (1738-1799) chose to serve in the British Navy during a time of fierce conflict, nearly losing a leg in a vicious battle. When he received a miraculous healing the night before his leg was to be amputated, his life changed, and he ultimately became a Baptist preacher, serving congregations which included numerous seamen and their families. This resurrection-themed hymn is based on Job 19:25, “For I know that my Redeemer lives ...”

–Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 341-342

Memory Verse Challenge: Luke 6:27-28

Jesus said, “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those that abuse you.



Announcements – Week of February 23, 2025

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week

MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Norm Klesat (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Bob Maguire (Usher), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire (Communion/coffee set-up), and Leslie Klesat (Communion/coffee clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/AS5QugSPNr8> 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 8:15 Bible Study: Angels and Demons. This Sunday's topic will be on the activities of the devil and his demons in the world today. We'll look at the specific areas of our lives that he attacks, and what strategies he uses. We'll discuss the dangers of the occult and the phenomenon of demon possession. But above all, we'll find encouragement in passages like Ephesians 6:10-18 that show how God has equipped us for spiritual warfare and guaranteed our ultimate victory over evil through Christ. Come and learn with us!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Next Wednesday evening (Feb 26) at 7:30pm, will be our final class before we break for Lent. **Our focus will be on Colossians 4:2-18.** In this closing portion of his letter, Paul gives final instructions on how to "walk and talk" a Christ-filled life. He also sends greetings from fellow evangelists who supported both Paul and the Colossians. Who are the people that support you in your faith? In what ways do you help one another remain strong and rooted in God's Word?

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (2/25)	6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (2/26)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study (LAST CLASS)
THURSDAY (2/27)	9:45/11:15am Nursery Chapels
SUNDAY (3/2)	8:15 Sunday School/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11am Discussion Group

You are invited to the 65th Anniversary Service of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Somerset, at 3:00pm on Sunday, March 9. Come celebrate with Pastor Greg Jans and the congregation! Reception to follow the service - please RSVP by **February 28** with your name and number of guests to htlfinsec@aol.com. Location: 1640 Amwell Road, Somerset, NJ. Offering to benefit the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Rutgers. *Live stream available at the [HTL Facebook video page](#).*

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

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry. If you would like to join us in the making of these special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event, please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Senior Youth Game Night - March Mayhem! On Sunday, March 23rd the New Jersey District LCMS is hosting a game night for all youth, from 8th grade to seniors in high school! The event is being held at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church in Basking Ridge, NJ from 2-6pm. It will include Wii Game competitions, 9-Square In the Air, and many classic board games, as well as food, fellowship, and devotional time. Talk to Pastor Jon if you're interested. Car-pooling is available!

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. Beginning **March 5 (Ash Wednesday)**, join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. **From March 12-April 9, come early at 6:30pm and enjoy our Wednesday Lenten soup supper with friends!** Look for more information about these meals on the church bulletin board or talk to Leslie Klesat.

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.

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 fruit and juices, mayo, mustard, ketchup, tuna, lunch bag stuff

Faithfulness Report: Attendance Feb 16: 72 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 5265
Flowers: \$25

St. Peter YouTube Channel. You can help increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel. This is the platform we use to live-stream and record our worship services as well as Wednesday Zoom bible studies. You can find it linked to our church website or by going to YouTube and searching "Saint Peter Lutheran Church". Thanks!

Website and Facebook. Come online to check us out! 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>.

Other Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org
NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 45:3–15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with

beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27–38

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."