

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome! When you were a child, perhaps you had a security blanket, stuffed animal, or some other item that you turned to for comfort in times of distress. As Christians, too, we can turn to our favorite "security blankets" when life gets hard - but not the kind that offers true and holy comfort. In the face of tragedy we may comfort ourselves by blaming the victims (Luke 13) or even blaming God! The Word of the Lord today calls all people to repent - turn - and look to Christ for eternal security and assurance. His holy blood has atoned for all our sins and opened a pathway to heaven.

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: “Was Gott tut das ist wohlgetan” – J. Pachelbel

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 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: 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

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,

whose glory it is always to have mercy,
be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;
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: Ezekiel 33:7-20 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 85



¹ LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of
your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.

³ You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

⁴ Restore us again, O God of our
sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | toward
us!

⁵ Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all
gener- | ations?

⁶ Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

⁸ Let me hear what God the | LORD will
speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints; but let them not turn
back to | folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those
who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
righteousness and peace kiss
each | other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up | from the
ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from
the sky.

¹² Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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 Corinthians 10:1-13 (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: Luke 13:1-9 (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: 765 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

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:

Bridenbaugh/Gewecke families
Radcliffe family

Death of John (Cheryl's father)
Death of Karen

Gewecke
Van Hise

For those with health concerns:

Pat McCann	Janice Nuneviller	Cole Garrow	Carol Farley	Sid	Greg
John Tarlo	Donna Poucel	Lolly Hoagland	Claudia Zucker	Susan	Zane
Fran Byrzkinsy	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah	Chris	JoAnne
Claudia Zucker	John O'Neil	Claire Haenisch	Monica Benesch	Rose	Claire
Kay Compton	Bob Van Hise	Terry Farley	Gordon Anderson	Beverly	Barbara
Phil Unetic	Freda Potts	Carl Lauricella	Barbara Nixon	Brennan	Mary
Jon Yost	Kathy				

For those with cancer:

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



For those with needs around the world:

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ	For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel
Government officials and people of our nation	For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with disasters – Himes family	For provision and help
Those in need of employment	For provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	For peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	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:

Debbie Scheblein Mar 28

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Offertory Song: God Who Bleeds *Hope Dunbar, Kevin Lauricella, Kevin Means and Jane Heebner*

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.

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:

Heav'n 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: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

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: 433 Glory Be to Jesus

Postlude: “Ich ruf du zir, Herr Jesu Christ” – J.S. Bach

TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Distribution Hymn LSB 420, Christ, the Life of All the Living

The text of this hymn by Ernst Christoph Homburg (1607-81) was published in 1659 with the original title “Hymn of thanksgiving to his Redeemer and Savior for His bitter Sufferings.” While it is an extended meditation on the sufferings of Christ, the first line makes clear that the intent is also to acknowledge that Jesus is the “Life of all the living,” as John 1:4 declares: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” Throughout John, Jesus is referred to as the Giver of Life, and that through His own suffering and death, and ultimate victory. What a timely reminder as we travel through this Lenten season looking toward Resurrection!

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 236-238

Memory Verse Challenge: John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”



Announcements – Week of March 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: Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant and Live-streaming), Jenn Garrow (Reader), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Scott Garrow and Bob Maguire (Ushers), Lillian Maguire and Jean 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/xZ55ycSYaWM> 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. This Sunday we'll discuss the 3rd Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exod. 20:8-11) This commandment emphasizes God's twin blessings of worship and rest. What did keeping Sabbath mean for ancient Israel, and how should we do that today?

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (3/25)	6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (3/26)	6:30pm Soup Supper; 7:30pm Lenten Service
THURSDAY (3/27)	9:45/11:15am NS Chapel services
SUNDAY (3/30)	9:30 Worship

NO Bible Study or Discussion Group - Sunday, March 30. Pastor Jon and his family will be away next Sunday attending their son Sam's senior vocal recital at Concordia University, Nebraska. There will be NO bible study or discussion group that day. We welcome Pastor Roy Minnix as our guest preacher!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our evening classes are now on break as we enter the season of Lent. Join us for Wednesday meals at 6:30pm and worship at 7:30pm. We'll resume our bible studies after Easter!

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.

Operation Christmas Child. In March we will be collecting matchbox cars and girls' hair accessories and jewelry to prepare for the Christmas in July packing party! Place in the narthex box.

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

NOAH APRIL EVENT. Join us on FRIDAY, APRIL 11 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall for a great "potluck" lunch, and then hop into a rousing game of "BUNNY BINGO". It promises to be a lot of fun! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or simply let the VanBeuzekoms, Yosts, or Klesats know you are coming.

Senior Youth Game Night - March Mayhem! TODAY 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!

St. Peter National Youth Gathering Easter Breakfast Fundraiser. The St. Peter delegation for the New Orleans Youth Gathering will be serving and helping with this year's Easter Breakfast and collecting free-will donations to put toward our outstanding trip expenses. Special thanks to Steve deDufour and Jim and Shirley Yost for helping coordinate our involvement. We're excited to be able to serve the congregation in this way and can't wait to share more about our fun plans for this summer. Be sure to take a look at the poster display in the Narthex. *If anyone has a Thrivent Action Gift card they could donate, we are looking for gift cards to pay for travel food for our trips down and back. Thank you!*

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.

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.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. March's collection is Breakfast – cereal, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, pop tarts, etc.

Faithfulness Report: Attendance March 16: 62 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 4492 (inc 3/12)

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>.

St. Peter YouTube Channel. Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

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



Lenten/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:

Lenten Soup Suppers	Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Mar 12-April 9
Midweek Lenten Services	Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Mar 12- Apr 9
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday, April 13, 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 17, 7:30 PM
*Good Friday, at Bethany	Friday, April 18, 12:00 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, April 18, 7:30 PM
Nursery School Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 19, 10:00 AM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, April 20, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 20, 9:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 20, 10:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 33:7–20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1–9

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”