



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

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. God's mission is to bring all people to salvation through faith in Jesus. In today's readings we hear how He propelled that mission forward in unexpected and miraculous ways. Jesus provided his disciples with a miracle catch of fish as a demonstration of the Gospel's inherent power to draw people to faith (John 21). Later, he drafted a leading persecutor of Christians, Saul of Tarsus, to be his apostle to the Gentile world (Acts 9). God uses each of us, in our own way, to bear witness to His Son as the Savior. What is vital is that we trust Him to do this.

A special welcome to all our visitors this morning. 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: As Lutheran Christians we practice "close communion." This means that all who participate in this holy meal are affirming the Lutheran understanding of the Lord's Supper; that Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine and that the forgiveness of sins is given to those who trust him as their Savior and desire to serve him with a holy life. Baptized believers who share this faith with us are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain about the teachings on the Lord's Supper we encourage you to speak with the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting One
LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude: “Jesus, meine Zuversicht” – J. G. Walther

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 151)

Entrance Hymn: 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness (st. 1-3)

Kyrie (page 152)

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.

Hymn of Praise This is the Feast (page 155)

C: (*Refrain*) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (*Refrain*)

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (*Refrain*)

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (*Refrain*)

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. (*Refrain*)

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God,
through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.
Grant to Your faithful people,
rescued from the peril of everlasting death,
perpetual gladness and eternal joys;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



First Reading: Acts 9:1-22 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 30



¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you
have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over
me.

² O LORD my God, I cried to | you for
help,*
and you have | healed me.

³ O LORD, you have brought up my
soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among
those who go down | to the pit.

⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his
saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

⁵ For his anger is but for a moment, and
his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but
joy comes with the | morning.

⁶ As for me, I said in my pros- | perity,*
“I shall nev- | er be moved.”

⁷ By your favor, O LORD, you made my
mountain | stand strong;*
you hid your face; I | was dismayed.

⁸ To you, O | LORD, I cry,*
and to the Lord I plead for | mercy:

⁹ “What profit is there in my death, if I
go down | to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell
of your | faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to
me!*

O LORD, be my | helper!”

¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning
into | dancing;*
you have loosed my sackcloth and
clothed me with | gladness,

¹² that my glory may sing your praise and
not be | silent.*
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to
you 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.**

Second Reading: Revelation 5:8-14 (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:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 21:1-14 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (see inside of the back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 485 Long before the World is Waking

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:

Mary Ellen's family

Death of Mary Ellen

Hoppe

For those with health concerns:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| Pat McCann | Janice Nuneviller | Cole Garrow | Barbara Nixon | Sid | Greg |
| Gordon Anderson | Donna Poucel | Lolly Hoagland | Rick Wright | Susan | Zane |
| Fran Byrzkinsky | Pete Serone | John Tarlo | Grant and Noah | Chris | JoAnne |
| Claudia Zucker | John O'Neil | Claire Haenisch | Monica Benesch | Rose | |
| Hank Van Beuzekom | Carl Lauricella | Terry Farley | Barbara | Beverly | |
| George DiCostanzo | Freda Potts | Dave Yost | Brennan | Mary | |
| Linda Wright | Pat Dietz | Phil Unetic | Anna | Claire | |
| Kay Compton | Drew Klesat | Mary Cobriere | | | |

For those with cancer:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| Rosalie Reinbacher | Aaron Kline | Holly Bray | Joan Rawls | Trudy |
| Rich Knechel | Karen Shevchuk | Gerry Campbell | Jason | Lance |
| Carol Tezla | Steve Saumsiegle | Brad Hoppe | Jerry | Linda |
| Nico Benesch | Nancy Gilliland | Aunt Jean | Sonia | Henry J. |
| Andrea(Andy) Hoteling | Kaleigh Moore | Sally Ashmen | Dora | |
| Rich deDufour | Logan Mattessich | Frank Cignus | Doris | |
| Jane Fry | Marci Fehlhafer | Gerry Campbell | Barbara | |
| Barbara Howard | Dick Butterfoss | Dave Bond | Lynn | |
| Lexi Launchbaugh | Frumi C | Kim McCollough | Mary Anne | |
| Judy Bacorn | | | | |

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 | 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 |
| Roman Catholic friends and neighbors | For comfort and wisdom as new leader is chosen |

For those serving in the armed forces:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| LJ Lupinacci | Carrick Porter | Emily Arndt | Jake Grube | Jim Buckman |
| 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:

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Pastor Jon | May 5 | Kristin Weiland | May 7 | Doug Hill | May 8 |
|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------|

Anniversaries:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Jim and Shirley Yost | May 4 | Joe and Bonnie Jean Gallagher | May 10 |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|

The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory: 785 We Praise You, O God (v. 1 & 3)

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, We kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**With voices united our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. To You, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise.**

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.

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

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 Cantic: 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: 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Opening Hymn, LSB 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) penned this “strong, personal Easter testimony,” entitled in German *Auf, Auf, Mein Herz, mit Freuden*, to appear in one of the most influential hymnals in Germany of the time. It was one of 18 of his works in that book. German Lutheran immigrants brought it to America, where the 1867 a translation by John Kelly into English made it more accessible to English speakers as *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness*. The use of the pronoun ‘I’ rather than ‘we’ gives it special personal significance that some other hymns of the time lacked, and for a perfect occasion!

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 354-358

Memory Verse Challenge: Revelation 5:13

*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,
and all that is in them, saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*



Announcements – Week of May 4, 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: Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Scott Garrow and Dave deDufour (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Judy Grube (Communion/coffee)

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

<https://youtube.com/live/MjgUQ6kletQ> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

8:15am Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday we will study the 7th commandment: "You shall not steal." (Ex. 20:15). Like all things, our earthly possessions are a gift from God that He has entrusted to us for temporary management. This commandment calls us to honesty in how we handle what is ours, and love for our neighbor by helping protect what belongs to them. What are some legal or socially acceptable forms of stealing we see today? How can Christians bear witness to the fact that everything we have belongs to the Lord?

Join us for the after-service Discussion Group. Dig deeper into today's scripture readings following the service in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our evening classes are on break; Bible studies resume on May 14th!

Weekly Schedule:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| TUESDAY (5/6) | 5pm Elders Meeting |
| THURSDAY (5/8) | 9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels |
| SATURDAY (5/10) | 7:30am Men's Breakfast |
| SUNDAY (5/11) | 8:15a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30pm IMPACT Youth Group at St. Paul, Flemington |

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

Operation Christmas Child. In May we will continue collecting plastic tumblers (dollar store 3/\$1 are perfect), washcloths, and note-pads. Place in the box in the narthex. There is also a jar in the narthex to make donations toward the shipping costs - thanks so much!

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.

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry. Join us in making 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

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. May's collection is Personal products: bar soap, bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary needs, dish soap, etc

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 4/27: 54/4 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$2312

Youth Gathering: \$347 Flowers: \$25

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.

Flowers are placed on the altar today in honor of Jim and Shirley Yost's 51st anniversary!

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

Keep Up with District News. Twice per month, the New Jersey District electronic newsletter - The Grapevine - publicizes events taking place among all the LCMS congregations in our state. It's a great way to keep up with District initiatives, hear what our sister churches are doing in the way of outreach to their communities, publicize our own events, and perhaps glean some ideas for St. Peter! The Grapevine comes out the first and third weeks of every month. Sign up is easy. Go to the district website - www.njdistrict.org , follow the link to sign up, and provide your email address.

THE BLESSING
AND HONOR
AND GLORY
and POWER
BELONG TO
THE LAMB
FOREVER
and EVER



REVELATION 5:13

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:8–14

⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden

bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you
ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people
and nation,

¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and
priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne
and the living creatures and the elders the voice of
many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and
thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,
"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive
power and wealth and wisdom and might and
honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³And I heard every
creature in heaven and on earth and under the
earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever
and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said,
"Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Holy Gospel: John 21:1–14

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the
disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed
himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called
the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons
of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were
together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going
fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They
went out and got into the boat, but that
night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the
shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was
Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have
any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to
them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat,
and you will find some." So they cast it, and now
they were not able to haul it in, because of the
quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved
therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When
Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on
his outer garment, for he was stripped for work,
and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples
came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for
they were not far from the land, but about a hun-
dred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a char-
coal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and
bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish
that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went
aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish,
153 of them. And although there were so many,
the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come
and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples
dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it
was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave
it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the
third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples
after he was raised from the dead.