



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Today's readings address the painful reality of broken relationships, and the Gospel's power to bring reconciliation. The beloved parable of the Prodigal Son features a father who eagerly desires a reunion with his estranged son. He quickly accepts his son's apology and restores him to an honored place in their household (Luke 15). St. Paul, in our epistle reading, calls us "ambassadors for Christ" and "ministers of reconciliation" (2 Cor 10). He reminds us that the most important relationship that needs restoring is our personal relationship with God. Jesus, by his death and resurrection, is our bridge, connecting us back to God as His forgiven and redeemed children. We worship the Lord with joy today, secure in knowing that there are no longer any divisions between us. He welcomes us with open arms!

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: “Aus tiefer Not” – 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 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: 437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
Your mercies are new every morning;
And though we deserve only punishment,
You receive us as Your children
and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness,
give thanks for all Your benefits,
and serve You in willing obedience;
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: Isaiah 12:1-6 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 32



¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression
is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

² Blessed is the man against whom the
LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

³ For when I kept silent, my bones
wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy
up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the
heat of | summer.

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I
did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the LORD," and you
forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when
you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not | reach him.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you
preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of
de- | liverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the
way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with my eye
up- | on you.

⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without
under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and
bridle, or it will not stay | near you.

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one
who trusts | in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice,
O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right
in heart!

**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: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (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 15:1-3, 11-32 (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)

Hymn of the Day: 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

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
John Tarlo
Fran Byrzkinsy
Claudia Zucker
Kay Compton
Phil Unetic
George DiCostanzo

Janice Nuneviller
Donna Poucel
Pete Serone
John O'Neil
Bob Van Hise
Freda Potts

Cole Garrow
Lolly Hoagland
Jon Yost
Claire Haenisch
Terry Farley
Carl Lauricella

Barbara Nixon
Claudia Zucker
Grant and Noah
Monica Benesch
Gordon Anderson
Kathy

Sid
Susan
Chris
Rose
Beverly
Brennan

Greg
Zane
JoAnne
Claire
Barbara
Mary

For those with cancer:

Rosalie Reinbacher
Rich Knechel
Carol Tezla
Nico Benesch
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling
Rich deDufour
Jane Fry
Barbara Howard
Lexi Launchbaugh

Aaron Kline
Rose Bonecki
Karen Shevchuk
Steve Saumsiegle
Nancy Gilliland
Kaleigh Moore
Logan Mattessich
Marci Fehlhafer
Dick Butterfoss

Holly Bray
Gerry Campbell
Brad Hoppe
Aunt Jean
Mary Anne
Frank Cignus
Gerry Campbell
Dave Bond
Dottie Brown

Lynn
Jason
Kathy
Sonia
Dora
Doris
Barbara
William
Jerry

Trudy
Lance
Linda
Henry J.
Mary Ellen
Joan Rawls



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:

Brittany Jamison Mar 30

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Offertory: “Interlude in D minor” – Anonymous

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: 629 What Is This Bread

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: 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (st. 1,4)

Postlude: “Aus tiefer Not” – G. Kaufmann



TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Hymn of the Day LSB 571, God Loved the World

A leading theologian of his time, Johann Olearius (1611-1684) included this hymn in the most comprehensive hymnal of the period, *Geistliche Singe-Kunst* (1671). It was not his only work; he also had produced a systematic theology, a commentary on the entire Bible, and many academic and devotional books. This hymn is a notable reminder of one of the most familiar verses in the Bible which is a tenet of our faith, and a comfort and reassurance all the time.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 619-620

Memory Verse Challenge: *Psalm 32:7*

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.



Announcements – Week of March 30, 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: Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live streaming), Joe Gallagher (Usher), MaryAnne Reside and Leslie Klesat (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/8m9yr2HKU4> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the [church's website](#).

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

Weekly Schedule:

WEDNESDAY (4/2)	6:30pm Soup Supper; 7:30pm Lenten Service
THURSDAY (4/3)	9:45/11:15am NS Chapel services
SUNDAY (4/6)	8:15 Sunday School/Bible Study; 9:30am Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group

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!

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

Spring Clean-up Day - Saturday April 12th 8:30am - Noon. Bring your shovels, rakes, clippers, gloves, wheelbarrows and cleaning supplies to help spruce up the property before Easter. We will be working inside and outside the building. If you can't make it on Saturday a task list will be posted on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to work during the week. A light breakfast will be served starting at 8am.

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!*

Operation Christmas Child. In April we will be collecting plastic tumblers (dollar store 3/\$1 are perfect) and washcloths. Place in the narthex box in the narthex. There is also a jar in the narthex to make donations toward our Christmas in July packing party project as well- thanks so much!

Thrivent Members - Time to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars! Don't forget to direct your dollars now! They expire at the end of the month – tomorrow! (Both the church and the nursery school are among the choices, if you desire to help out in that way.)

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.

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.

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. April’s collection is Pasta - any varieties of noodles and sauces!

Faithfulness Report: Attendance March 23: 57 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 6260 (inc 3/19)
Debt reduction: \$151 Flowers: \$50 Missions: \$15 Op Christmas Ch: \$148

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1–6

- ¹ You will say in that day:
“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
- ² “Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my
song,
and he has become my salvation.”
- ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells
of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:
“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- ⁵ “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done
gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of
Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One
of Israel.”

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

¹¹“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And

the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”