



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

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## Fifth Sunday in Lent

*April 6, 2025*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome!** God's Kingdom is a place of abundant provision! Both the Old and New Testaments are well stocked with imagery of fruitful vines, rivers of refreshing water and banquet tables stacked with delicious food - all provided by our good and gracious God. The rebellious spirit of sinful Man has, throughout history, despised and despoiled these blessings. Examples of this appear in all three of today's readings - most potently in Jesus' Parable of the Wicked Tenants. It promises divine judgment on those who despise God's Son and reject His holy fruit. But these same readings also point to the restoration, righteousness and abundant life God offers us in Christ.

**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:** “Prelude in G minor” – J. S. Bach

### **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:** 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

**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,

by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people

that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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:** Isaiah 43:16-21 (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 126



<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes  
of | Zion,\*  
we were like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled  
with | laughter,\*  
and our tongue with | shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations, "The  
LORD has done great | things for them."\*

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for  
us; | we are glad.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,\*  
like streams in the | Negeb!

<sup>5</sup> Those who | sow in tears\*  
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

<sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping, bearing the  
seed for | sowing,\*  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his | sheaves with 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 Reading:** Philippians 3:8-14 (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 20:9-20 (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:** 430 My Song Is Love Unknown

**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

Death of John (Cheryl's father)

Gewecke

***For those with health concerns:***

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

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

For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel  
For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom  
For provision and help  
For provision of jobs  
For peace, forgiveness, and guidance  
For health, safety, and provision

***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:***

David Yost	April 6	Kim Robinson	April 7
George Pfeiffer	April 11		

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

**Offertory:** “Adagio” – G. Greene

**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: 543    What Wondrous Love Is This

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:** 919    Abide, O Dearest Jesus

**Postlude:** “Herzlich

tut mit verlangen” – J. Pachelbel



**TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Hymn of the Day LSB 430, My Song is Love Unknown**

In 1664, Samuel Crossman published the poem “My Song is Love Unknown” in a collection of his poetry entitled *The Young Man's Meditation*. The poem has a very personal tone, calling Christ ‘friend’ and exploring His sacrifice on the cross because of His love for sinners. This is “love unknown”, at least for those who don't know who Christ is or understand how He could have offered Himself up for them. The tune was written by John Ireland many years later, in 1919. That is when the hymn became well-known as a Lenten hymn. Ireland took all of fifteen minutes to write his tune down, on a piece of scrap paper – an inauspicious beginning for a meaningful and reflective piece.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 258 - 431

**Memory Verse Challenge:** *Philippians 3:8*

*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*



## Announcements – Week of April 6, 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: Jason Bloom (Communion Assistant), Lydia Bloom (Reader and Acolyte), Joe Scheblein and Kevin Lauricella (Ushers), Amy Van Hise (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Cheryl Gewecke (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/elMo0cxWpIE> 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 8:15am Bible Study.** This Sunday our study of the Ten Commandments continues with the 4th commandment: "Honor your father and your mother," (Exodus 20:12). We'll talk about the blessing that parents are as God representatives within the family. What about cases of neglectful or abusive parents? And how does this command apply to other God-given authority figures? Join our discussion!

**Discussion Group** resumes this week after service at 11:00. Join us for some deeper discussion around the morning readings.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

MONDAY-SATURDAY	Spring Clean-Up Week! (see bulletin board for task list)
TUESDAY (4/8)	6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 2pm Pennington Clergy Mtg. @ St. Peter
WEDNESDAY (4/9)	6:30pm Soup Supper; 7:30pm Lenten Service
THURSDAY (4/10)	9:45/11:15am NS Chapel services; 7pm Elders Mtg.
FRIDAY (4/11)	Noon NOAH Potluck and Bunny Bingo
SATURDAY (4/12)	8:30am Spring Clean Up Workday
SUNDAY (4/13)	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 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!

**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! Sign up on the bulletin board, or simply let the VanBeuzekoms, Yosts, or Klesats know you are coming.

**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**

**Lenten Services & Meals.** Join us for our final Wednesday evening Vespers service this week at 7:30pm. Come early at 6:30pm and enjoy our Lenten soup supper as well.

**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 30: 35/6 online      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 13,417\*  
Operation Christmas Child: \$36

*\*Weekly total includes a generous one-time gift of \$10,000, a contribution received from a stock donation*

**Website and Facebook.** Come online to check us out! Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://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](http://lcms.org)  
NJ District LCMS   [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)  
LCMS World Relief and Human Care   [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)  
The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast   [lhm.org](http://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





## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### Old Testament Reading:

#### Isaiah 43:16–21

- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings forth chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched  
like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> “Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not  
perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild beasts will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for  
myself  
that they might declare my praise.”

### Epistle: Philippians 3:8–14

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward

to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 20:9–20

<sup>9</sup> [Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. <sup>10</sup>When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup>And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. <sup>13</sup>Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ <sup>14</sup>But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ <sup>15</sup>And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” <sup>17</sup>But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“ ‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone’?”

<sup>18</sup> “Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

<sup>19</sup> The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. <sup>20</sup> So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.