



# 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 of Easter

*May 18, 2025*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome.** Just "a little while". When Jesus told his disciples that he would be gone from them "a little while", their reaction was like ours often is when someone tells us that (Jn 16). We want to know EXACTLY, how long is "a little while"? The three days that Jesus spent in a tomb may have felt like an eternity to them in their grief. And waiting for Jesus to return can feel just as long for Christians today who are struggling. But Christ has made his promise. He is coming again to "make all things new" (Rev. 21). And compared to the grand scope of eternity, our present waiting really is just a little while. Thanks be to God!

**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:** “Christ ist erstanden” - J. G. Walther

**Words of Welcome**

**Invocation, Confession and Absolution** (page 151)

**Entrance Hymn:** 857 Lift High the Cross (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** Gloria in Excelsis (page 154)

P: Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## 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,  
You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.  
Grant that we may love what You have commanded  
and desire what You promise,  
that among the many changes of this world  
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



**First Reading:** Acts 11:1-18 (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 148



<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from  
the | heavens; \*  
praise him | in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his | angels; \*  
praise him, | all his hosts!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, | sun and moon, \*  
praise him, all you | shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest | heavens, \*  
and you waters above the | heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the  
LORD! \*  
For he commanded and they were  
cre- | ated.

<sup>6</sup> And he established them forever  
and | ever; \*  
he gave a decree, and it shall  
not | pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD | from the earth, \*  
you great sea creatures and | all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, | snow and mist, \*  
stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and | all hills, \*  
fruit trees and all | cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Beasts and all | livestock, \*  
creeping things and | flying birds!

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all | peoples, \*  
princes and all rulers | of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens to- | gether, \*  
old men and | children!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is ex- | alted; \*  
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for | all his saints, \*  
for the people of Israel who are near  
to him. | Praise the LORD!

**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 21:1-7 (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 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

***John 16:12-22*** (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed** (see inside of the back cover of the hymnal)

## Children's Message

**Hymn of the Day:** 672 Jerusalem the Golden

## 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 those in need of comfort:*

Hogan family

Death of Jim

Farley

### *For those with health concerns:*

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

### *For those with cancer:*

Rosalie Reinbacher	Aaron Kline	Holly Bray	Joan Rawls	Trudy
Rich Knechel	Karen Shevchuk	Gerry Campbell	Judy Bacorn	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	Jason
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	

### *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

***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

**Birthdays:**

Charlie Grube      May 18

**Anniveraries:**

Peter and Sharyn Johnson      May 23

***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.	<b>C: And also with you.</b>
P: Lift up your hearts.	<b>C: We lift them to the Lord.</b>
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	<b>C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.</b>

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: 638    Eat this Bread

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:** 466    Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (st. 1-3)

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!                      **C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** “Erschienen ist der herlich Tag” – J. S. Bach

**TAKE IT FURTHER:** Today’s Closing Hymn, LSB 466    Christ has Arisen, Alleluia

Bernard Kyamanya (1938-2021) originally wrote this joyous Easter hymn in Swahili while he was attending seminary in Tanzania in 1966. It is set to a traditional tune from the Haya people of western Tanzania. According to Howard Olson, who had extensively studied African hymnody, it “has been sung in many languages throughout the world in both Protestant and Catholic churches”, and is often considered a favorite. It is a splendid reflection of the commonality of God’s people as we praise what has been done for all through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and in His resurrection.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 351-353

***Memory Verse Challenge:    Revelation 21:1-7***

*“Behold, the dwelling place of God with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.*



## **Announcements – Week of May 18, 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), Lydia Bloom (Acolyte), Joe Scheblein (Usher), Jason Bloom (Usher and Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set up/clean-up)

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

<https://youtube.com/live/TfpIt2LNMiM> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

**8:15am Sunday Bible Study**. This Sunday we will study the 9-10th commandments: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, or servants, animals or possessions." (Ex. 20:17). God created us to be content with the gifts by which He sustains our life. What are some reasons that people are not content with what God has given them? How do we tell the difference between healthy desires or ambitions and sinful ones?

**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**. On next class (5-21) will be a reading and discussion of 1 Peter 1:13-25. After opening his letter by reminding them of God's saving work, Peter calls his hearers to holy conduct. Our obedience to God should be motivated, not by guilt or fear, but by gratitude that Christ has ransomed us from sin and death. Why is it important for us to remember that "all flesh is like grass, that withers and fades"? What has God given us that is "imperishable, living and abiding"?

### **Weekly Schedule:**

MONDAY (5/19)	5:30p Planning Council
WEDNESDAY (5/21)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (5/22)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels
SUNDAY (5/25)	8:15a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

### **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 5/11: 57/8 online                      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3141

**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.

**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)

**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](http://www.njdistrict.org) , follow the link to sign up, and provide your email address.





## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 11:1–18

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

### Second Reading: Revelation 21:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is

with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

### Holy Gospel: John 16:12–22

<sup>12</sup>[Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

<sup>16</sup>“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” <sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”