



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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## Sixth Sunday of Easter

*May 25, 2025*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome.** Today's readings present a striking contrast between the Christian's reality as we experience it now, and how life will be in the heavenly age to come. For now, Jesus says, we should expect there to be trials, troubles, and tribulations of various kinds (Jn. 16). But John's end-of-the-age vision is of a gathering of believers who appear before God's throne in splendid beauty and strength - cleansed of all sin! The Holy Spirit abruptly changed Paul's travel plans, rerouting him through Macedonia instead. But there he met a remarkable woman named Lydia whose faith and generosity would help establish the Church in Philippi (Acts 16).

**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:** 906 O Day of Rest and Gladness

**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:**

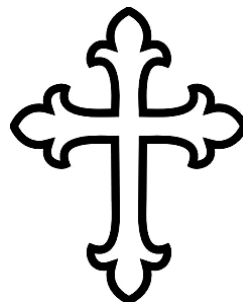
**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**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**

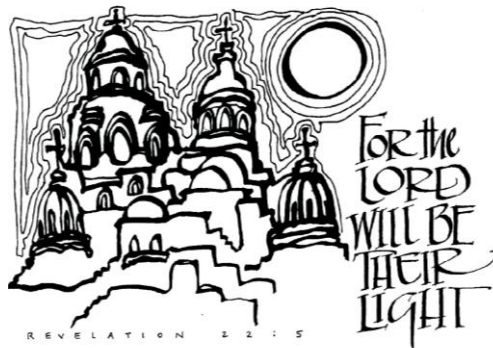
P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God,  
the giver of all that is good,  
by Your holy inspiration  
grant that we may think those things that are right  
and by your merciful guiding accomplish them;  
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 16:9-15 (see back cover)

**Psalms:** Psalm 67



<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and | bless us\*  
and make his face to shine up- | on us,

<sup>2</sup> that your way may be | known on earth,\*  
your saving power among all | nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, | O God;\*  
let all the peoples | praise you!

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and | sing for  
joy,\*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations up- | on earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, | O God;\*  
let all the peoples | praise you!

<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its | increase;\*  
God, our God, shall | bless us.

<sup>7</sup> God shall | bless us;\*  
let all the ends of the earth | fear 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.**

**Second Reading:** Revelation 21:9-14,21-27 (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 16:23-33*** (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:** 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

## 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	Ursula Chirico	Beverly	Brennan
George DiCostanzo	Freda Potts	Dave Yost	Jim Jones	Mary	Joanne
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	Keith Watson	Linda
Nico Benesch	Nancy Gilliand	Aunt Jean	Sonia	Henry J.
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Dora	Jason
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	Jerry
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
Those who are traveling	For safety and provision

***Anniversaries:***

Andy and Carol Farley

May 25

***The Service of the Sacrament***

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory:** 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (v. 1-2)

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To thee our first-fruits give!**

**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: 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

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:** 917 Savior , Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

## Announcements

## Dismissal

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

## Postlude: “Basse de Trompette” - L. Clerambault



***TAKE IT FURTHER:* Today's Closing Hymn, LSB 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing**

Heinrich Puchta (1808-1858) wrote this hymn for an 1843 devotional book following a long hospital stay and extended recovery. The themes of the book were peace, comfort, and forgiveness, all key parts of healing. The book was written in response to another popular 1801 devotional book which espoused a Rationalist point of view, stating that ceremonies and symbols in the church are unnecessary. This resulted in some churches offering the Lord's Supper only one or two times per year. Puchta instead emphasized the critical importance and *true* meaning of the "Sacrament of the Altar and bodily presence of Christ," clearly evident as we sing the words of this significant hymn.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 736-738

**Memory Verse Challenge:** John 16:33

*I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

## Announcements – Week of May 25, 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: Steve deDufour (Communion Assistant and Reader), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Mark McAllister (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), MaryAnne Reside and Leslie Klesat (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/r5t7xobmJn4> 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 (5-25) we will begin a NEW study of the book of Romans. Martin Luther called this book "the purest Gospel" which every Christian "should be familiar with and exercise himself in it continually". An epistle of the apostle Paul, it contains an abundance of teaching on such vital Christian topics as: law and gospel, sin and grace, faith, righteousness, baptism, good works, love, and much more.

**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.** This coming week (5-28) we'll be studying together 1 Peter 2:1-12. Using the Old Testament example of the temple and its stone walls, the apostle tells Christians today that we are "living stones" built on Jesus, our cornerstone. What's more, we make up a holy priesthood in service to God and His world. What does the Biblical teaching of the "Priesthood of All Believers" mean for our daily life? In what ways can every Christian be a gracious intercessor on behalf of the world? Join our discussion!

### Weekly Schedule:

MONDAY (5/26)	Memorial Day (Office and School closed)
TUESDAY (5/27)	6a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (5/28)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
SUNDAY (6/1)	8:15a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

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

**Operation Christmas Child.** Pick up the gold sheet on the narthex table with a list of the things we still need before the July 31 packing party. 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. June's collection is Baking and Cooking products: flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, vinegar, baking powder, baking soda etc

**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance 5/18: 47/3 online      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4663  
Missions: \$30      Building: \$50

**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 this week in honor of Elisabeth and Kylie Mullen's birthdays.**

**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.





## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 16:9–15

<sup>9</sup>A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

<sup>11</sup>So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. <sup>13</sup>And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup>One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

### Second Reading: Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

<sup>9</sup>Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup>It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—<sup>13</sup>on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

...

<sup>21</sup>And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup>and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

### Holy Gospel: John 16:23–33

<sup>23</sup>[Jesus said:] “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup>for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup>His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup>Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”