

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.  
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Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator  
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
*November 16, 2025*

**Our mission:**

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

**Welcome.** The prospect of Judgment Day is a sobering -perhaps even scary- thought for many Christians. But alongside the dire predictions of social upheaval and material destruction in today's readings is an unmistakable note of joy. "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!" (Ps.98:1) God's perfect justice and His righteousness offered in Christ are indeed marvelous things. And there is real joy in knowing that He will judge the earth with wisdom and equity -- something you and I cannot (and dare not attempt to) do.

**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 and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). 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:** “Schmucke dich, o liebe seele.” – J. G. Walther

**Words of Welcome**

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

**Entrance Hymn:** 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**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** page 154 Gloria in Excelsis

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.

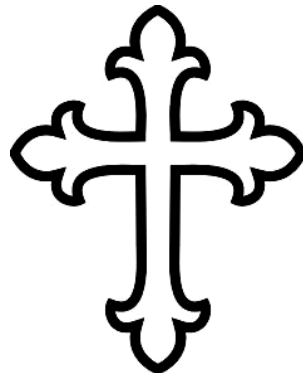
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

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 Lord,  
almighty and ever-living God,  
You have given exceedingly great and precious promises  
to those who trust in You.

Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit  
that we may live and abide forever in Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



**Old Testament Reading:** Malachi 4:1-6 (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 98



<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he  
has done | marvelous things! \*  
His right hand and his holy arm have  
worked salva- | tion for him.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his  
sal- | vation; \*  
he has revealed his righteousness in  
the sight of the | nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of | Israel. \*  
All the ends of the earth have seen the  
salvation | of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all  
the earth; \*  
break forth into joyous song and  
sing | praises!

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre, \*  
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound | of the  
horn \*  
make a joyful noise before the | King,  
the LORD!

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it; \*  
the world and those who | dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; let the  
hills sing for joy together <sup>9</sup> be- | fore the  
LORD, \*  
for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world  
with | righteousness, \*  
and the peoples with | equity.

**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 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (see back cover)

**Alleluia Verse** (page 156) (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): Straighten up and / raise your heads\*  
because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28b)*

## Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

***Luke 21:5-28*** (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:** 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

## 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:***

The Mannarino family

death of John

Gewecke

The Behnfeldt family

death of Dan

Behnfeldt

The Cohen family

death of Frumi

Farley

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

August Gewecke

Eric Teschke

Sid

Grant

Clara McMahon

John O'Neill

Rose

Noah

Don Hammond

Carla Behnfeldt

Jan

Zane

Sue Lauricella

Bob Aneskievich

Claire

Brennan

Shirley Yost

John Tarlo

Pat Dietz

Susan

Pete Seronew

Rick Wright

Beverly

Catie Lauricella

Kay Compton

Claire

***For those with cancer:***

Rich Knechel	Robert Miller	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Trudy
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Brad Hoppe	Lynn	Lance
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Mary Anne	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Dora	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	Dawn
Aaron Kline	Millie Walters	Judy Bacorn	Lynn J.	
Joan Rawls	Rosalie Reinbacher	Carol Storr	Dana	
Tom Sullivan	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	

***For those serving in the armed forces:***

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Mike Bahney	

***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/flooding	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 St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:***

For staff and families	for '25-'26 school year
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**Birthdays:**

MaryAnne Reside	Nov 19	Madelyn O'Connor	Nov 20
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***The Service of the Sacrament***

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory:** 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (st 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!**

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 Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

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: 570    Just as I Am, without One Plea

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Benediction** (page 166)

**Closing Hymn:** 816    From All That Dwell Below the Skies

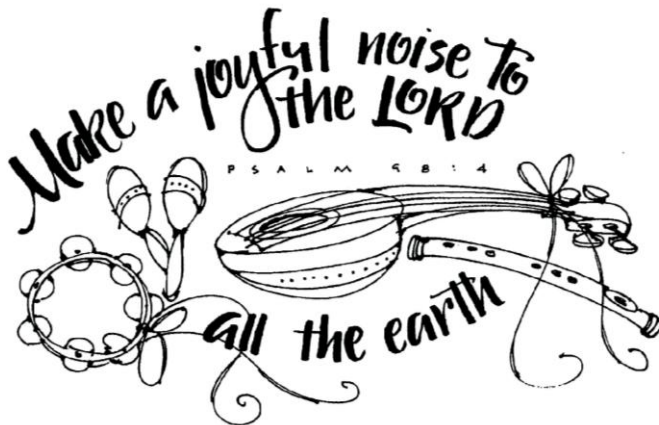
**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** “Komm heiliger Geist” – G. Bohm





## **Announcements – Week of November 16, 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), Bob Maguire (Usher), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/ieg3Usj30tw>  
If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

**Sunday Bible Study: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.** This morning we continue our study on the best sermon ever preached! Covering chapters 5-7 of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount lays a foundation for what it means to be his disciples. We'll discuss the two major themes of the sermon, blessing and calling, and how these help sustain and shape our lives as Christians seeking to live faithfully today. Topics that Jesus addresses here include witnessing, the application of God's laws, prayer, fasting, and much more.

**A Study of The Epistles of John - Wednesdays via ZOOM.** Join us this Wednesday at 7:30pm as we read together 3 John. This will be our final study before we take a break for the holidays.

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

**Community Thanksgiving Potluck!** The Pennington Clergy Association is hosting its third annual Thanksgiving Potluck on **Thursday, November 20th starting at 6:00pm** at St. James Catholic Church in Pennington. The event will include food, fellowship, singing and expressions of gratitude. It is a great way to connect with other Christians in our area, and reach one of our strategic goals as a congregation - that "everyone would know who we are at St. Peter"! See the poster on our bulletin board for more info. It has a QR code where you can RSVP to attend.

**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.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

WEDNESDAY (11/19) 4:30p Confirmation Class; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study  
THURSDAY (11/20) 9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapel;  
6p Pennington Community Thanksgiving Potluck  
SUNDAY (11/23) 8:15a Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group;  
6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

### **Service and Other**

**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance 11/9: 60 / 4 online      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 6060

**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 the birthdays of  
MaryAnne Reside and Madelyn O'Connor, her granddaughter, celebrating birthday #2!**

**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> . Don't miss the **St. Peter YouTube Channel**, which 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)





## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1–6

<sup>14</sup>For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

### Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

<sup>13</sup>As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5–28

<sup>5</sup>While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>7</sup>And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things

be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" <sup>8</sup>And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. <sup>13</sup>This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your lives.

<sup>20</sup>"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, <sup>22</sup>for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. <sup>23</sup>Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup>They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

<sup>25</sup>"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."