



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome "Can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3) Every day our faith in God is challenged by things that appear to be beyond repair - our future hopes, our bodies, our relationships, etc. God's Word to us today calls for resisting an attitude of hopelessness. The Holy Spirit can breathe the Breath of Life into the most broken situations. Jesus Christ, who brings us the Spirit, is our way, truth, and life, as demonstrated so powerfully by the raising of Lazarus (John 11). God will never leave His people in the dust!

Welcome guests! 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: 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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE

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 reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN 430 My Song Is Love Unknown (st. 1-3)

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

The musical score consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Assistant, and the second and third staves are for the Congregation. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The Assistant's part is a single line of music. The Congregation's part is split across two lines of music.

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Pastor: Assistant:
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Cong: Congregation:
A - - - men.

The musical score consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Assistant, and the second staff is for the Congregation. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The Assistant's part is a single line of music. The Congregation's part is a single line of music. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O God." and "A - - - men." The Assistant's part is a single line of music. The Congregation's part is a single line of music.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ



for ev - er. *To refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation.



3. For God has come to dwell with us,



to make us peo - ple of God; to make



all things new. *To refrain*

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (see back)

PSALM 130 (Spoken responsively by whole verse)

¹ Out | of the depths*

I cry to you, | O LORD!

² O Lord, | hear my voice!*

Let your ears be attentive to the voice
of my pleas for | mercy!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark
in- | iquities,*

O Lord, | who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is for- | giveness,*
that you | may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*
and in his | word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than

watchmen for the | morning,*

more than watchmen for the | morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with

the LORD there is | steadfast love,*

and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

⁸ And he will redeem | Israel*
from all his in- | iquities.

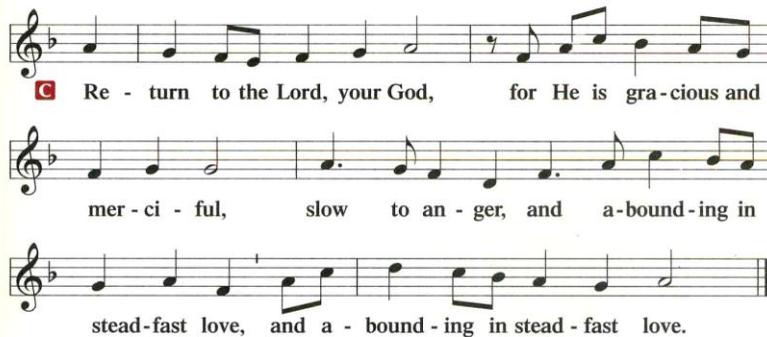
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE: Romans 8:1-11

LENTEN VERSE:



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

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

John 11:1-45

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

APOSTLES' CREED (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY 548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

Those in need of comfort:

Reinbacher family	comfort at the death of Pastor Otto	Klesat
Lynch family	comfort at the death of a son	Farley
Gaspari Family	death of Ed	Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Katherine Ecclesten	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Marge Keen	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Brennan	Claire
Don Hammond	Sue Bridenbough	Jeff Corelli	Zane	Beverly
Sandy Hammond	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Grant	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Noah	Jan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Rose	Carlie
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Tony Shiron	Susan	

For those with cancer:

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

For those serving in the armed forces and their families:

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

For those with needs around the world:

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ
Government officials and people of our nation
Those in need of employment
Conflicts throughout the world
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine

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

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

for '25-'26 school year

Birthdays:

Matthew Lange

March 24

Debbie Scheblein

March 28

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory:

Refrain

Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 748 I'm But a Stranger Here

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Announcements – Week of March 22, 2026
 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), Jenn Garrow (Reader), Thomas Cresap (acolyte), Scott Garrow (Usher), Jesse Dunbar (Usher and Live-streaming), Hope Dunbar and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean -up)

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

(continued on blue insert)

Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: *The Wilderness*. This Sunday we will conclude our 7-week long Wilderness study by reading Hebrews 3:12-4:11. In this New Testament passage, the author compares Israel's journey to the Promised Land with our own anticipation of heaven. How does life in the wilderness of this world prepare us for our Sabbath rest in Christ? Come and join the discussion!

Lenten Services & Meals. Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. Join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Come early at 6:30pm and enjoy the Lenten soup suppers with friends! Look for more information about these meals and sign up to bring a part of the meal on the church bulletin board, or talk to Leslie Klesat.

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (3/22)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 2-6p District Youth Event @ Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge
MONDAY (3/23)	5:30p Planning Council
TUESDAY (3/24)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (3/25)	6:30p Soup Supper; 7:30p Lenten Service
THURSDAY (3/26)	11:40a Nursery School Chapel Services w/NOAH Seniors; 4:30p Confirmation
SUNDAY (3/29)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

District Youth Game Day - March Mayhem! This afternoon, March 22nd, the New Jersey District will host its 2nd annual game day for all youth, grades 6-12. The event is being held at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church in Basking Ridge, NJ from 2:00-6:00pm. It will include indoor and outdoor games (weather permitting), such as 9-square in the Air, many classic board games, as well as food, fellowship, and devotional time. Talk to Pastor Jon if you're interested. Car-pooling is available.

MARCH - NOAH. I am very excited to announce our March event. We will experience "CHAPEL TIME" with Pastor Jon and our Nursery School at 11:00AM on Thursday, March 26, in the Sanctuary. Following, we will have Pizza and fun in the fellowship hall. You will not want to miss this blessed opportunity to experience how St. Peter is bringing Jesus' love to our children. Please sign up on the bulletin board, or let the Yosts, the Klesats, or Bill Kianka know you are coming.

Prayer Vigil: Wednesday, April 1st. On Wednesday of Holy Week, St. Peter will be holding a prayer vigil from 7am-7pm in the church sanctuary. Shifts are 1 hour in length, but any commitment of time is welcome. You may also participate at home or work if you're unable to make it to church. More than one person may sign up for the same time slot. Suggested petitions, Scripture readings for meditation, and other prayer resources will be provided. Our hope is to engage as many of us as possible in lifting up the needs of our congregation, community, and world to the Lord in prayer. "Watch and pray!" (Mark 14:38)

Easter Egg Hunts. Yes, it's that time of year again! We will be holding two Easter Egg Hunts again this year, one on Sat, April 4 at 9:30 for our Nursery School families, and one on Easter Sunday morning at 10. There is a sign-up sheet to be a 'hider' at one or both on the bulletin board – we could use your help for these fun events. Also, if you'd like to donate eggs, please grab a dozen or two from the box in the narthex,

fill with individually-wrapped candies, stickers, or tchotchkes, and return by Palm Sunday. They're always a blast! Thanks for your help!

Calling all golfers! LCMS NJ District presents its 20th Annual Mission Classic Golf Outing, taking place on Thursday, May 7. It will benefit the NJ District Outreach Missions, for which nearly \$250,000 has been raised since the Missions Classic began. There are many opportunities to participate or sponsor - see the brochure on the narthex table for details. Come for a fun day! Registration can be mailed in, with payment due by the day of the event.

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.

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.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: Midweek: 45 / 2 online (combined offering both services-
3/15 60 / 5 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5678
Debt relief: \$50

Food Pantry. We continue to support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **March's** collection is **breakfast items** – cereal, shelf-stable milk, pancake mix, syrup, oil, breakfast bars, pop tarts, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

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:

Midweek Lenten Services	Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Feb 18 – Mar 25
Lenten Soup Suppers	Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Feb 25 – Mar 25
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday, March 29, 9:30 AM
Prayer Vigil	Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service at Bethany	Friday, April 3, 12:00 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, April 3, 7:30 PM
Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4, 9:30 AM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, April 5, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 5, 9:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1–14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Epistle: Romans 8:1–11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Holy Gospel: John 11:1–45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when

Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. "So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.