

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome! We've all heard the expression that "many hands make light work". This is just as true for our life together as God's Church. In order to be good stewards of the Gospel, the disciples chose seven deacons to help shoulder the Church's ministry responsibilities (Acts 6). Peter affirms this practice with his teaching on the Priesthood of All Believers (1 Peter 2). When congregations are deliberate about helping more of their people become active in serving, they mirror the kind of relationship Jesus had with His Father (John 14).

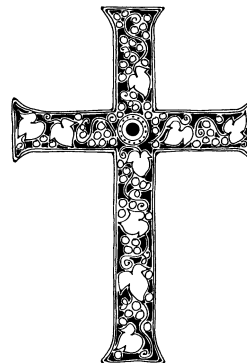
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families 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.

Divine Service, Setting One

LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 151)

Opening Hymn: 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

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

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: 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 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Psalm 146



¹ Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I
have my | being.

³ Put not your trust in | princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no
sal- | vation.

⁴ When his breath departs he

returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵ Blessèd is he whose help is the God
of | Jacob,*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea,

and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷ who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸ the
LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed
down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners; he
upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*

but the way of the wicked he brings
to | ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion, to all
generations. | 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.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse of the Day (Cantor):

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never / die again;
death no longer has dominion / over Him.*

*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and my Father will / love Him **

And we will come to Him and make our / home with Him. (Rom. 6:9; John 14:23)

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

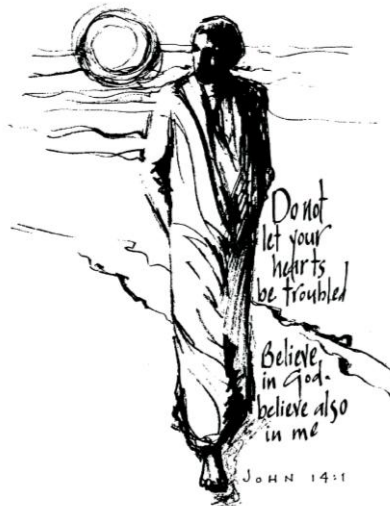
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

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

John 14:1-14

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



Nicene Creed (found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 645 Built on the Rock (st. 1-3)

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.)

Those who are homebound in our congregation:

Clair Haenisch	Margaret and Michele Manura		
Mary Beck	Janice Nuneviller	George Pfeiffer	Christine Weiland

Those in need of comfort:

Corboy family	comfort at the death of Bill	Teschke
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For those with health concerns:

Katherine Ecclesten	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Rich Mount	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Barbara Nixon	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	Brennan
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Mara	Penny

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	Chris Legere	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Rita Piratsky	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Mary Anne	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Lynn J.	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	

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	For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel
Government officials and people of our nation	For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Armed forces, especially those deployed	Safety and protection as they carry out their duties
Those in need of employment	For provision of jobs
Conflicts throughout the world	For wisdom, guidance, peace, and forgiveness
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:

Pr. Jon Dunbar	May 5	Kristin Weiland	May 7	Doug Hill	May 8
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Anniversaries:

Jim and Shirley Yost	May 4
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Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory: 785 We Praise You, O God (st. 1, 3)

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;	With voices united our praises we offer
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.	and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;	With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will
We bless Your holy name, glad praises	guide us,
we sing.	To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

The Service of the Sacrament

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 singing:

**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: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... This do, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

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.”)

Agnus Dei

C: 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 Hymns: 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction (p. 166)

Closing Hymn: 465 Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds (st. 1,4)

Postlude





Announcements – Week of May 3, 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 Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Allison Fog (Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Kevin Lauricella and Bob Maguire (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up)

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

Sunday 8:15 Bible Study. This Sunday we will be discussing **James 1:26**. We will talk about James' understanding of what constitutes "pure religion", as well as his admonitions against showing favoritism. Join us!

Discussion Group today – come dig deeper into today's readings after the service.

Wednesday 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study This Wednesday we will study **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**. We will talk about Paul's command against sexual immorality and what it means that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome!

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (5/3)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group
WEDNESDAY (5/6)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
SATURDAY (5/9)	7:30a Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (5/10)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

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.

Saturday Outdoor Vespers Service. On **Saturday, May 23rd at 7pm** we'll have an outdoor vespers service on the parsonage lawn. Bring your own chair and a flashlight (or phone). Join us as we set aside this special time of worship and fellowship to dedicate the spring season into God's hands with His beautiful creation.

Seminary Workshop at St. Peter. Coming up this summer, we are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky from the St. Louis Seminary. Dr. Elowsky, a Professor of Historical Theology, will lead a 3-day workshop on June 1-3, on the topic of *The Apostolic Fathers*. This event is intended for pastors, other

church workers, and interested lay people. Register at csl.edu/resources/continuing-education/workshop-series/. Cost is \$160. See our bulletin board for more info, or talk to Pastor Dunbar.

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.

Operation Christmas Child. On Sunday, July 26 we will hold our annual Operation Christmas Child “Christmas in July” event. We look forward to meeting after the service and filling shoeboxes for children around the world. They will be able to hear the Good News of Jesus as they receive a special Christmas gift from our congregation. We are especially looking for donations of toddler socks and toys (e.g. squeeze bath toys), costume jewelry, girls’ hair bands and barrettes.

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: 56 / 8 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$2980
Flowers: \$25

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 Gabriella Allardice’s 2nd birthday
by the Lauricellas!**

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. May’s collection is **Personal Products** – soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, liquid hand soap, sanitary supplies 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
NJ District LCMS
LCMS World Relief and Human Care
The “Lutheran Hour”

lcms.org
njdistrict.org
lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

Broadcast



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

^{7:2a}And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put
to shame."

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and

"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Holy Gospel: John 14:1–14

¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."