



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Easter 5
May 18, 2025

Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Overview

God's Beautifully Messy Community

From abandonment to homecoming and from a narrow scope to a broader vision of God's realm, these are the promises proclaimed. The early church and our faith communities are called to engage this reality. A community of Jewish Jesus-followers overcomes fear and expands to include the much larger Gentile world. In the hymnody of the psalm the whole creation and her people are ushered into praise and the trumpeting of a new community. An exiled follower of Jesus sees in the midst of his situation a vision of the Holy One who proclaims a new heaven and earth, stripped of tears and death. Finally, Jesus shares that he will no longer be physically present with his disciples, and points them to a new way of being a community of love for one another. Through the depth of the texts for this day, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. The church, like any other human organization, is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). Unlike other human institutions, however, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection we are welcomed and called to invite others. We offer, in a spirit of humility, signs of welcome and love to others, just as God in Christ has been revealed to us.

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Bell Choir

The Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

p. 97

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

p.140

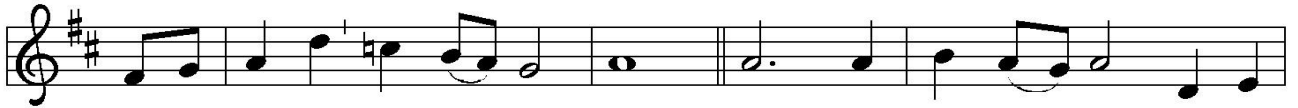
Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

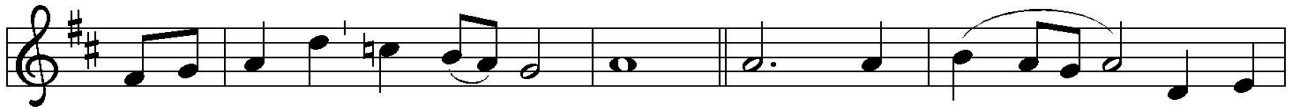


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain

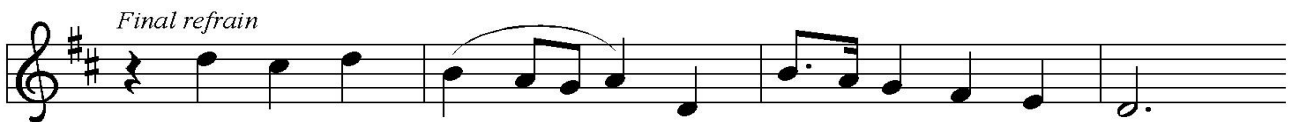
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell

upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

L This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 148 (sung in unison)

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

2 Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

3 Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

4 Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

6 who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

7 Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

9 mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

10 wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
12 young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.
13 Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.
14 The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all |
faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

1 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. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW #172



Music: Caribbean traditional

***GOSPEL John 13:31-35**

P The holy gospel according to John.

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

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Pam Carnes

SERMON

Pastor Pam Carnes

*NICENE CREED

p.105

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree.

Recommit us to preservation of wild places (*local or regional places may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness *especially Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Duck Harris, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, Jeff Myers, and Jacqueline Acri*. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

*PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gigue

Bell Choir

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

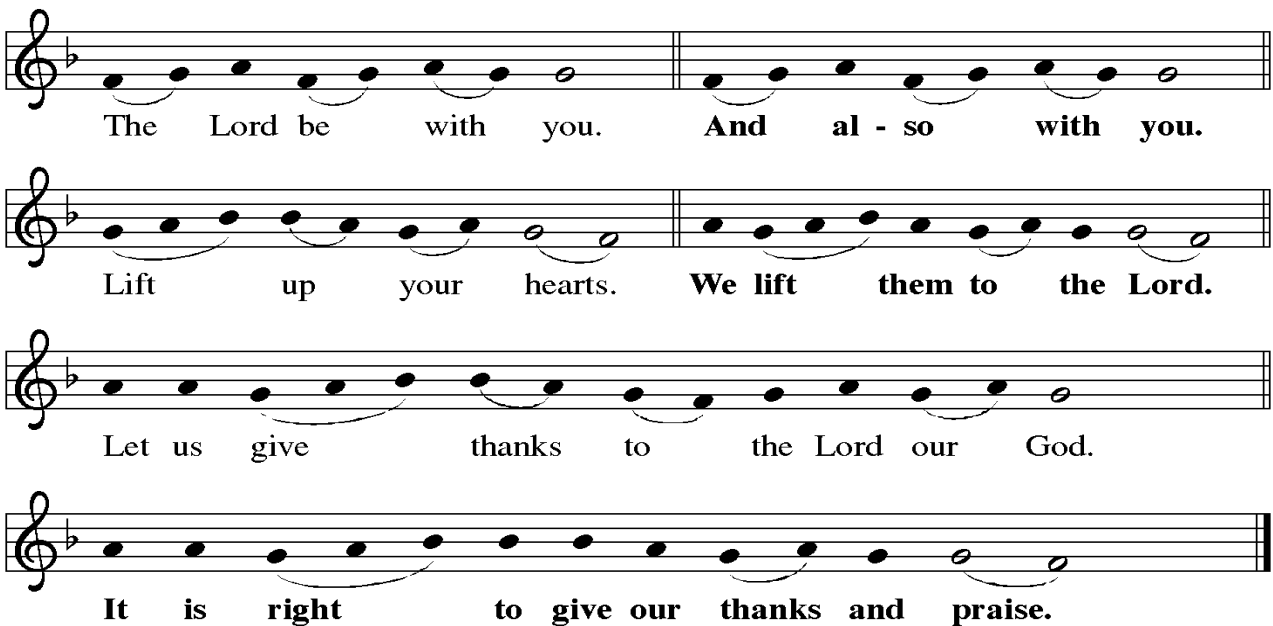
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

p.144



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

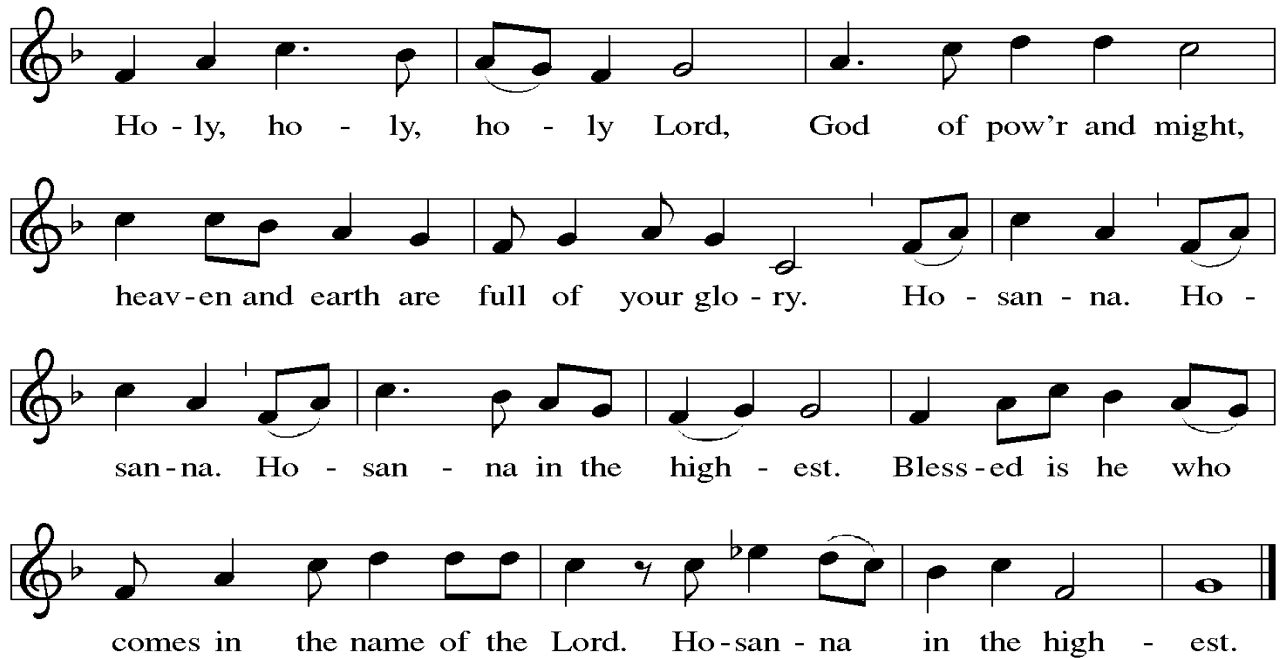
The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line after the first measure.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p.144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people of Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and his glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit now and forever

C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

p.145

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***SHARING THE MEAL**

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

p.146

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW #359

Baptized and Set Free

ELW #453

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

C Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C Amen.

***THE CLOSING OF RENEWED IN GRACE**

***BENEDICTION**

P Almighty God, Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

WOV #671

***DISMISSAL**

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Arthur Berg

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Prelude - "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" by R. V. Williams, arr. Mitchell Eithan @ 2017 Mitchell Eithan Handbell Musicians of America (permission granted to members) - Bell Choir

Gathering Hymn - "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" ELW #424 LASST UNS ERFREUEN PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of Praise - "This is the Feast" p. 140-141

Psalm 148 (sung) - tone 1, p.337

Gospel Acclamation - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of the Day - "I Come with Joy" ELW #482 DOVE OF PEACE words - Brian Wren music - W. Walker, from Southern Harmony @ 1971, 2021 Hope Publishing Co.

Offertory Anthem - "Gigue" by Douglas E. Wagner @ 1985 Agape, div. Hope Publishing Co. Bell Choir

Offertory Hymn - "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful " ELW #184 Ronald Nelson @ 1978, 1993 Augsburg Fortress

The Great Thanksgiving p.144, setting 3 ELW

"Holy, Holy, Holy" p.144, setting 3 ELW

Distribution of Communion - Lamb of God, p. 146

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW #359 TWENTY-FOURTH tr. Omer Westendorf @1960 World Library Publishing, GIA Publishing Corp.

"Baptized and Set Free" ELW #453 Cathy Skogen-Soldner @ 1999 Augsburg Fortress Co.

Sending hymn - "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" WOV #671 Donald Fishel, International Liturgy Publications

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Highspire Contact Information:

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Pastor Carnes can be reached at the following: Home phone: 717-584-6627
Cell phone: 717-592-8690 email: pstpammy@verion.net.

PENTECOST June 8th, 2025

GERANIUM ORDER FORM

St. Peter's Altar Guild is asking for your help to decorate our Sanctuary for Pentecost on June 8th, 2025! This year we are decorating with Red geraniums. If you would like to order, please fill out the order form below and either:

1. Place your order in the offering plate
2. Call Helene Hoch (717-343-8397)
3. Mail the form to Helene – 49 E. Emaus Street, Middletown PA 17057
4. Mail the form to St. Peter's – 240 Broad Street, PO Box 97, Highspire PA 17034

Please indicate the number you wish to donate and include your check payable to: St. Peter's Altar Guild. The deadline for orders is June 1st. Thank You!

Number of Geraniums @ \$6.00 each _____

In honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Altar Flower sponsors needed!

The following dates are open for flower sponsors. If anyone is interested, please let Helene Hoch know she can be reached at 717-343-8397.

Sunday June 1st

Sunday June 22nd

Sunday July 6th

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God in honor of Don Dell's birthday on May 14th and Hayley Hoch's birthday on May 22nd by the Hoch family.

Attention Graduates and family members!

Please call or email the church office with the names of anyone in your family who is graduating high school, college, technical school, or vocational school. For the high school graduates, please also feel free to share any future plans the students may have. We want to acknowledge their achievements and give thanks to God for the Gifts God has given to all of them and with your help we will be able to do this. Thank you so much.

Worship Participants for May 18, 2025

Presiding Minister	Pastor Pam Carnes
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Arthur Berg
Worship Assistant	Sally Schonewolf
Acolyte	Brady Keyser
Lector	Doris Reynolds

Worship Participants for May 25, 2025

Presiding Minister	Pastor Jeff Compton
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Arthur Berg
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Acolyte	Jill Hawkins
Lector	Randy Hoover

Announcements from St. Peter's Council:

We will continue to Worship at 11AM till the end of May 2025.

Beginning June 1st, 2025 our Worship time will change to 10AM until further notice.

Congregational Conversation

Your council members invite you to a time of Conversation and questions on what our next steps are going to be and where our congregation is heading in the coming days. Please plan on attending after worship on June 1st, and if you are unable to attend, please let any council member know your questions or concerns you may have.

Come to church and stay for fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.