

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, HYMN MASS

September 7, 2025

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*

**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen**

Trusting in God's mercy, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**And also with you.**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

This is a reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 30.

*Moses said to all Israel:* "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and

ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

This is God's Word, our hope.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

**MESSAGE**      **Consideration**    *silence for reflection follows*

### **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he  
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection † of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, and unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. We pray for ELCA Bishop Elect Yehiel Curry and Secretary Rev. CeCee Mills, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, our at-home worshippers, Annunciation Church & School, the faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and families of St. Peter's Sunday school and St. Peter's Elementary school, ... God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

So that all the world may be fed, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

### **BLESSING and PEACE**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  
bless ☩ you now and forever. **Amen**

*Paul wrote:* "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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Today's Sponsorships

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of my daughter,  
Sharyn Diepold's September 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Love, Mom.

In Loving Memory of my husband, Frank,  
on our September 8, 1963 anniversary.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

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Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Fred Volz
for his September 9th birthday.
Given by his wife, Lois, and family.

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Attendance for August 31, 2025: 29

### ***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

**Installation of Staff & Volunteers:** On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will bless those who serve the Lord through St. Peter's Sunday school and Elementary School. At the 8:45 am. worship we will be installing Sunday school teachers and support staff. At the 10:15 am. worship we will be installing the Elementary School staff, school board members, and PACE officers.

**Rally Day Sunday** is September 14<sup>th</sup>! Let's "rally together" to celebrate a new year of learning and serving at St. Peter's!

**Make a Joyful Noise:** Do you enjoy singing, especially praising the Lord?? The choir and praise team are looking for YOU! Contact Bärbel for the choir or Richard for the praise team.

**Chairs:** We have some stackable cushioned chairs up for grabs – FREE to a good home. If you're interested in taking a few, call the church office at 410-665-7300. This offer won't last long!

**Help Wanted:** Elderly community neighbor is in need of heavy-duty cleaning/repair work (to start) and on-going light duties. If you are available and able, please call the church office for contact information.

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 9/28, and bulletins on 9/28 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 9/14 & 28 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families.

**Flea Market:** Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 am.-12 pm. at Christus Victor Lutheran (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). To reserve a space, call 410-668-8089. Indoor spots are \$25 (table and 2 chairs provided) or outdoor spots are \$20 (provide your own table/chairs/tent/canopy).

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

***News from St. Peter's Elementary School & PACE***

Although the school year has begun, it's not too late to enroll! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

Save the Date! SPES invites you to join them at the Beachmont Corn Maze on Saturday, October 4th from 5-9 pm. at Beachmont (6433 Mt. Vista Rd., Kingsville, 21087). More details to come!