

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Holy Cross Day – 14th Sunday after Pentecost, HYMN MASS

September 14, 2025

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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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. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9**

*When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.*

This is a reading from Numbers, chapter 21.

From Mount Sinai the Israelites set out, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the

LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.  
This is God's Word, our hope.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

*At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.*

This is a reading from Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1.  
*Paul writes:* The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

This is God's Word, our hope.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:13-17**

*After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
*Jesus said:* "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Humanity. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Humanity be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God

did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

**MESSAGE**            **No Fooling!**            *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

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

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they see the way of the cross and live. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. 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 Tim, Joe, Lynn, Jack, Joel, Erik, David, Joan, Tony, at-home worshippers, ... God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. 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 Loving Memory of my grandfather,  
Ernest Grimm's September 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by his granddaughter, Carole Grimm.

In Honor of my grandson, Brooks.  
Given by Anita Gladstone.

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Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
Jim Frederick, III's birthday, September 19th.
Given with love by his wife, Janice.

In Loving Memory of Wilhelmina Weinreich.
Given by the Mills family.

In Honor of Donna Mills' September 16th birthday.
Given by the Volz family.

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Attendance for September 7, 2025: 43

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

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

**SPES Open House:** Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm. If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality Christian education, please plan to attend!

**Beachmont Corn Maze:** 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). Admission is \$18/person (guests 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Enjoy Beachmont's 6+ acre corn maze, hayride, carnival games, and more! Concessions are also available for purchase.

**Crab Feast:** Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. at St. Luke Lutheran (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Tickets are \$65 in advance or \$75 at the door. Menu includes AYC crabs (from Parkville Crab), fried chicken, corn, salads, soda, tea, and lemonade. BYO beverage of choice. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Contact Kim at 443-415-5824 for tickets and information.

**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.

**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 9/28 (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.

**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!