

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church & Elementary School  
Third Sunday after Pentecost – Father's Day  
June 21, 2020**

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God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

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*You are welcome to say the **BOLD** words along with the pastor.*



**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross which was marked on us at baptism.*

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen** Trusting in the mercy of God, we confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Gathered on the Lord's Day, we remember that we are baptized

**in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Jesus promised his followers at his ascension:

I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

**And we will follow all he has taught us,  
making disciples where ever we are.**

Join me in prayer. *A brief silence.* Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the

wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **SCRIPTURES, SERMON, & SONG**

#### **READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

*Paul writes:* Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 10:16-31 Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

This is the Good News of the victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
as the Word was given to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve: I am sending you like lambs into a pack of wolves. So be as wise as snakes and as innocent as doves. Watch out for people who will take you to court and have you beaten in their meeting places. Because of me, you will be dragged before rulers and kings to tell them and the Gentiles about your faith. But when someone arrests you, don't worry about what you will say or how you will say it. At that time you will be given the words to say. But you will not really be the one speaking. The Spirit from your Father will tell you what to say.

Brothers and sisters will betray one another and have each other put to death. Parents will betray their own children, and children will turn against their parents and have them killed. Everyone will hate you because of me.

But if you remain faithful until the end, you will be saved. When people mistreat you in one town, hurry to another one. I promise you that before you have gone to all the towns of Israel, the Son of Man will come.

Disciples are not better than their teacher, and slaves are not better than their master. It is enough for disciples to be like their teacher and for slaves to be like their master. If people call the head of the family Satan, what will they say about the rest of the family?

Don't be afraid of anyone! Everything that is hidden will be found out, and every secret will be known. Whatever I say to you in the dark, you must tell in the light. And you must announce from the housetops whatever I have whispered to you. Don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they cannot harm your soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell. Aren't two sparrows sold for only a penny? But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground. Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don't be afraid! You are worth much more than many sparrows.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION** [*for your own use, & for our Wednesday Zoom Meeting*]

1 What worries, concerns, or even fears do you have about witnessing your faith? When have you overcome your worries? When has it seemed hard to do?

2 What do you think it would be like to face opposition when you are acting faithfully? Not just when you talk about faith, but when acting on it?

3 When have you felt assured & supported in living out your faith?

**MESSAGE: A New Life**

'Newness of life.' Despite all the things that were changing so rapidly, that is, before the events of this year, I'd think we could say that our life was fairly settled & ordinary. Yes, it all got a little darker & more chaotic once 9/11 shattered the complacency that most of us lived with. But we could also point to some balance in our lives. You & I had lost loved ones, some friends here have gone thru illness or injury that have set us back. But we've seen families grow, had work we could be proud of, & we were free to go places where we could refresh ourselves & let go of our worries. The larger picture could be pretty disturbing, but it didn't often touch us right where we were. This year is different; things have truly changed in ways that we won't easily comprehend for some time to come. We keep hearing about the 'new normal.' It doesn't sound as if I'm going to like it; will you?

In the face of everything that *was* normal, that **is** ordinary & settled now, Jesus came to *change* things. What was normal in our human history? We were all ruled by kings, or something similar in other cultures, & kings went to war to get what they wanted. Powerful people preyed on those whom they thought of as weaker, as savages, or maybe just not as sophisticated

as our Western, *noble* Roman or European society. Empires ruled, but Jesus & the early Church meant for things to be different. Sadly, the Church came to accept & support the notion of empire. When Martin Luther announced before the Holy Roman Emperor, 'I am taking a stand for the truth of God's Word,' it struck a huge blow against the tyranny of absolute power.

Clearly, Jesus **has** changed things; but because we tend to think of things more personally, as *smaller* than they are, we'd say 'Jesus changes *hearts*, Jesus changes **lives**', to which many people can attest for themselves, & I can say unequivocally is a good thing. But when I change, as you grow & see things differently, that doesn't change just us as individuals. It effects the people around us when we think & act differently—when I know that I'm loved by God, then I am going to be able & willing to love those around me. Maybe that circle grows & expands, as others find this 'new' something in us. & what happens when enough of us can love others, no matter who or what?

For as good & right it is that you & I are saved by Christ's love, the next question is: for what? What kind of love works thru us? We call it agape – unconditionally meeting others with Jesus' kind of love. Love makes things right, not accepting things the way they are, but calling for us to obey God's command to love neighbor & enemy. Wouldn't things in this world change when we take up that work of radical love? For we followers of Christ don't need to only concern ourselves with sending souls to heaven, or being saved from our sins, but we're working to transform lives here & now. For "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Walking with Christ is going to make our life new.

That will happen because Christ's death has destroyed death & the power of sin. Sin cannot separate us from God, since Jesus has washed it away in our baptism into his death. In Romans 5:10, Paul states this, "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of God's Son, **much more surely**, having been reconciled we will be saved by his life." Jesus puts it simply in John 14:9, "because I live, you also will live."

Thus, our new life is **much more** than the forgiveness of our sin – which is important. But Christ's life overcomes the power of death, & all those things that deal death. What leads to death? Sin. Not just our wrong deeds, our breaking the law –which is bad– but sin is our inability to see beyond our own needs & desires, our selfishness & disregard for those who suffer or those who cause fear & discomfort in us. Martin Luther, & St Augustine before him, called this being turned *inward* on oneself, as opposed to living *outward* for God & others. You can find this on Wikipedia under *incurvatus in se*, & for more fun, look up Theology of the Cross! I suspect I will take up this argument in 2 weeks as we plow the depths of Romans–& Martin Luther!

Sin leads to death; we'll hear that again in Romans. What then leads to life? NOT our *not sinning*, or our doing & being good –which are still things to strive for. & it's not obeying the Law in hope that we can earn salvation or receive a reward. Life for us is the resurrection life of Jesus. It is the faith **of**

Jesus that God can do new things & break the law of death, & it is our faith that is a gift of grace that comes from the Spirit we receive in baptism.

So we walk in newness of life; we don't fear death & we live for God & others. We don't have to earn this new life of salvation, nor do we risk final punishment when we sin. So then, per Luther's admonition to 'sin boldly', we shall live & act in a **much more** way of life –generous, truthful, working for justice, peace, reconciliation & renewal—as we change! As Paul says, & we will be reading in 2 months! – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” We can hope for this, “For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like his.” Then we can give thanks to God with David the Psalmist in 56:13,

For you have delivered my soul from death,  
and my feet from falling,  
so that I may walk before God  
in the light of life.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 661 "I Love to Tell the Story"** (refrain on next page)  
[at home or in your car, solos at church]



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry  
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911  
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

### **WE RESPOND in THANKSGIVING**

#### **APOSTLES CREED**

Together let us confess our 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** [*please phone/email your requests by Wednesday*]

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world. *A brief silence.*

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray especially for Jim, Fred, Marydel, George, Danielle, Pr. Combes, Joe, Tonya, June, Chris, Vince, Nettie, Steve, Kalli, John, the Richter family, John & Ann, Bill & Nancy, Anita, Nancy, Stephine, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, our truth, through the ages you have spoken through prophets. Stir up in your church a passion for your word revealed in Jesus, that following the witness of the Emanuel Nine, your church studies the scriptures, shows hospitality, prays without ceasing, and embodies prophetic justice in community. We give you thanks for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza. Embolden church leaders and all the baptized to remember the lives of the Nine and their congregation, repent of racism and white supremacy, and renew our commitment to your word revealed most fully in Jesus, our way, truth, and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for Wendel and all who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Thanks to all those of you who have mailed or dropped in their tithes & offerings, that believers may reach out to a world in need.* Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you light our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your resurrection feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**      *From Romans 8*

'When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,' and so we are bold 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**

### **PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE**

Save us, O God, from ourselves,  
from racism which comes cloaked in pious words,  
from the workings of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,  
from aggression thinly veiled in selfishness,  
from self-justification through false comparisons,  
from apologies when they don't give way to action,  
from forgiveness without facing the truth,  
from repentance without renewal,  
and from reconciliation without reparation.  
Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color  
to continue to bear this emotional work, which is not theirs to do.  
Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:  
Grant us wisdom, give us courage for the facing of these days,  
by the power of the Spirit, all for the sake of the community  
that we share in Christ Jesus. **Amen**

### **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things  
to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the  
creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless us and  
keep us in eternal love. **Amen**

### **SENDING into MISSION**

Live in peace. Christ is with you.

**We will Learn God's Truth.**

**We will Share the Spirit's Healing.**

**We will Follow the Way of Jesus. Amen**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

*Please share words & gestures of peace with those near you,  
or in the comments of our FB Live page*



**Emanuel Nine, martyrs, 2015**

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

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

**WELCOME BACK:** The council is making plans and preparations for a safe return to in-person indoor worship beginning on Sunday, June 28th. A letter to parishioners with more information about the new procedure for entering the building for worship will be sent out in the early part of the week of June 22nd. Service times will remain the same (8:45 & 10:15 am.). While many will meet in person, Pr. Lans will continue to post a worship service on Facebook and YouTube on Sunday mornings.

**Emergency Needs Drop Off:** We have a congregation member who is willing to make emergency porch drop offs for fellow congregation members. If you are in need of this kind of service, please contact the church office or Pr. Lans.

**Gospel Reflection Zoom:** Join Pr. Lans on Thursdays at 4 pm. on Zoom (web and phone) to discuss the previous Sunday's gospel and reflection questions. The link for joining was sent out via email on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to participate, but didn't receive the link, contact the church office.

**The Quest:** Join Becca Plantholt, our Youth & Family Coordinator, for this on-line VBS bible study expedition to develop a deeper relationship with God. See the attached fliers for time/date details on the kid-friendly and adult studies. Register by emailing Becca at [christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com](mailto:christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com).

**We are branching out on social media!** You can connect with us on Instagram and Twitter (search for [stpeterselcafullerton](#)) and on YouTube (search for St. Peter's Lutheran Church Fullerton).

**Amazon Smile:** When you shop on Amazon, please consider supporting St. Peter's Elementary School by using Amazon Smile. A portion of every purchase goes back to St. Peter's. To use Amazon Smile, please type in the following and sign in with your Amazon user name and password: [smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0796248](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0796248).

**Internet Search:** Help St. Peter's church and school reach the top of the search engine results by typing our web address ([www.st-peterslutheran.com](http://www.st-peterslutheran.com)) directly into the search line/box (not the browser bar) on all of your devices!

# The Quest

## Kid's Bible Study



**On-line  
Study!**

Saturdays  
@ 9:30  
am.

The Quest is an engaging expedition for kids ages 3-11 to develop a deeper relationship with God! Start your "quest" on Saturday, July 11th! For additional information, contact Becca Plantholt at [christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com](mailto:christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

*The*  
**HOLY BIBLE**  
ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

*Online*  
**STUDY**  
SESSIONS

**THE QUEST**  
An expedition toward a deeper relationship with God  
For more information, contact Rebecca Plantholt at [christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com](mailto:christedcoord@st-peterslutheran.com)

**JOIN US** Sundays at 6:30 PM  
Starting July 12th