

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 9, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna,  
the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, we confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

**CALL to WORSHIP and PRAYER of the DAY**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

**The Father treated us with undeserved grace  
because of the Son God dearly loves,**

**and so we should praise God. Amen** [*from Ephesians, ch 1, CEV*]

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Genesis 3:8-15**

*Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.*

This is a reading from the Genesis, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35**

*In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Mark, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Jesus entered a house. A crowd gathered again so that it was impossible for him and his followers even to eat. When his family heard what was happening, they came to take control of him. They were saying, "He's out of his mind!"

The legal experts came down from Jerusalem. Over and over they charged, "He's possessed by Beelzebul. He throws out demons with the authority of the ruler of demons."

When Jesus called them together he spoke to them in a parable: "How can Satan throw Satan out? A kingdom involved in civil war will collapse. And a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. If Satan rebels against himself and is divided, then he can't endure. He's done for. No one gets into the house of a strong person and steals anything without first tying up the strong person. Only then can the house be burglarized. I assure you that human beings will be forgiven for everything, for all sins and insults of every kind. But whoever insults the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin with consequences that last forever." He said this because the legal experts were saying, "He's possessed by an evil spirit."

His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to Jesus, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, "Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you."

Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, "Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 503 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old evil foe,  
Sworn to work us woe,  
With dread craft and might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
Ask who this may be:  
Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus our Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpower us.  
This world's prince may rage,  
in fierce war engage.  
He is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
If they take our house,  
goods, fame, child, or spouse,  
wrench our life away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
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**MESSAGE: *Divided We Fall*** (silence for reflection follows)

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

#### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. *A brief silence.*

You reawaken our hearts to your mercy. We give you thanks for renewers of the church in every age: Columba, Aiden, and Bede whom we commemorate today. Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to transform the church into a closer vision of your beloved community.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your presence is revealed in the shade of trees, the growth of seeds into flowers, and in the blessing of plants granting food in their right season. Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence.

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Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness. With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless organizations and individuals who work on their behalf.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and clarity to all who are in seasons of discernment and transition: high school graduates preparing for first jobs or new educational journeys, those who are shifting careers, and those who are navigating changes in their relationships. Accompany them with your peace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, the family of Louisa Schultz, Mary Lou, Nancy, our at-home worshippers, ...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Praise to you for Louisa and all of our ancestors in faith who believed, spoke, and lived in you. Give us confidence that as Jesus was raised, so we too will be raised, with all the saints, into your everlasting presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, we pray as Jesus has 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**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine 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 feast; through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING and PEACE**

Receive the blessing. *A brief silence.*

The blessing of † God, who provides for us, feeds us,  
and journeys with us, rest upon you now and forever. **Amen**

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

*Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.*

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At the time of this writing, please keep the following in your prayers: ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, the family of Louisa Schultz who passed away 5/31, those hospitalized or at home recuperating, and our at-home worshippers.

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Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Susanne's birthday, June 11th.
Given by Siegfried and Bärbel Otto.

In Celebration of Jennifer Smith's birthday.
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

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*Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Uncle John Bast  
for what would have been his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Given by the Volz family.

In Loving Memory of Uncle John Bast  
for his June 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for June 2, 2024: 37

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**Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; Renewers of the Church**

These three monks from the British Isles were pillars among those who kept alive the light of learning and devotion during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries, including one on the island of Iona, off the coast of Scotland. That monastery was left in ruins after the Reformation but today is home to an ecumenical religious community. Aidan, who helped bring Christianity to the Northumbria area of England, was known for his pastoral style and ability to stir people to charity and good works. Bede was a Bible translator and scripture scholar. He wrote a history of the English church and was the first historian to date events *anno Domini* (A.D.), "year of our Lord." Bede is also known for his hymns, including "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!" (ELW 393).

**Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities**

**Centenarian Celebration!** Join us in the open area of the lower-level (elevator access) after worship on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our members who are 100+ years young – Mrs. Ruth Diepold, Mr. Bud Gahs, and Mr. Francis Thrift! Refreshments, provided by St. Peter’s Church council members, will be served.

**Summer Office Hours:**

- Church (began 5/28) M-Th 9a-3p; F 9a-12p
- School (begin 6/10) M-Th 9a-12p

**Church & PACE Picnic:** Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 am. worship. All are welcome! Bring a favorite dish to share! More details to follow.

**Sponsorships Available:** Flowers for 8:45 am. service and bulletins on 6/23 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. service on 6/23 & 30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**LGBTQ+ & Allies Potluck:** Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave, 21206). Attendees will collaborate on plans for involvement in the Baltimore Pride March. Participants are encouraged to bring a side dish. Fried chicken will be provided by the church. RSVP to Mary Catherine at 443-743-4717.

**Flea Market & Craft Fair:** Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9a-2p at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Event includes a plant sale and bake sale!

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Summer Arts Camp:** August 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, M-F 9a-3p. at St. Luke’s (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). For kids who’ve completed Kindergarten to those who’ve completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Cost is \$200 and includes camp, lunch, and snacks. For more information or to register, call 410-444-5171.

**For every NEW regular deposit account** opened at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton branch only) St. Peter’s Lutheran Church receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130 or go to EasternSavingsBank.com.

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News from St. Peter’s Elementary School

“Open Enrollment” for the 2024-25 school year continues. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

We wish all of our students, families, and staff a safe and restful summer!