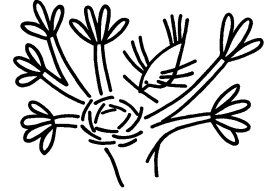


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day, June 16, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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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.* O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the believers at Corinth,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Christ who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said, "The realm of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the realm of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but Jesus explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 516 "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"**

- 1     Almighty God, your word is cast  
      like seed into the ground;  
      now let the dew of heav'n descend  
      and righteous fruits abound.
  
- 2     Let not the sly satanic foe  
      this holy seed remove,  
      but give it root in ev'ry heart  
      to bring forth fruits of love.
  
- 3     Let not the world's deceitful cares  
      the rising plant destroy,  
      but let it yield a hundredfold  
      the fruits of peace and joy.
  
- 4     So when the precious seed is sown,  
      life-giving grace bestow,  
      that all whose souls the truth receive  
      its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.

**MESSAGE: SEEDS**     *(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.*

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With gratitude, we remember Nancy, the Emanuel Nine martyrs, and all the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling.

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, Bruce Swartzendruber and family on the passing of his wife Nancy (6/12), 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 Loving Memory of my father, Ernest Grimm,
for his June 27th birthday and Father's Day.
Given by his daughter, Carole Grimm

In Celebration of Bud Gahs' 100th birthday
and a happy Father's Day.
Given by his children.

In Celebration of Francis Thrift's 103rd birthday.
Given by Nancy Barnes and family.

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

In Honor and Memory of our special fathers,  
grandfathers, Godfathers, and uncles on Father's Day.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for June 9, 2024: 30

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Blessings to all "fathers" on this Father's Day!

Centenarian Celebration! Join us in the open area of the lower-level (elevator access) after worship on Sunday, June 16th 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.

Church & PACE Picnic: Sunday, July 7th 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).

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

27th Annual Kids Summer Arts Camp: August 5th-16th, M-F 9a-3p. at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). For kids who've completed Kindergarten to those who've completed 5th 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!