

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

Third Sunday after Pentecost, PETER and PAUL, APOSTLES

June 29, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We begin our worship as we began our life in the body of Christ:

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Baptized into Christ, we call to him to confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's kindness, Jesus' peace, and Spirit's joy are always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 12:1-11**

*King Herod had James killed and had Peter put in prison, under heavy guard. In what Peter first believes is only a vision, an angel leads him past unseeing guards, out of the prison, and to freedom.*

This is a reading from Acts, chapter 12.

About that time King Herod Agrippa laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the



sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

*Contemporary English Version*

*Paul has faithfully persevered in the mission the Lord had given to him. Near life's end he rests in the promise of eternal life, confident that the Lord who has rescued him in the past will bring him into the heavenly realm.*

This is a reading from 2 Timothy, chapter 4.

*Paul writes:* Now the time has come for me to die. My life is like a drink offering being poured out on the altar. I have fought well. I have finished the race, and I have been faithful. So a crown will be given to me for pleasing the Lord. He judges fairly, and on the day of judgment he will give a crown to me and to everyone else who wants him to appear with power.

When I was first put on trial, no one helped me. In fact, everyone deserted me. I hope it won't be held against them. But the Lord stood beside me. He gave me the strength to tell his full message, so that all Gentiles would hear it. And I was kept safe from hungry lions. The Lord will always keep me from being harmed by evil, and he will bring me safely into his heavenly realm. Praise him forever and ever! Amen

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 21:15-19**

*Jesus invites Simon Peter to declare his love for him three times, in a manner reminiscent of the three times that Peter earlier denied Christ. Jesus commissions him to feed his sheep and predicts that he will die as a martyr for God.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter. When the disciples had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 427 "For All Your Saints, O Lord"**

- 1 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to live,  
who followed you, obeyed, adored,  
our grateful hymn receive.
- 2 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to die,  
who counted you their great reward,  
accept our thankful cry.
- 3 They all in life and death,  
with you, their Lord, in view,  
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath  
to suffer and to do.
- 4 For this, your name we bless  
and humbly pray anew  
that we like them in holiness  
may live and die in you.

- 5 To God, the Father, Son,  
and Spirit, ever blest,  
the One in Three, the Three in One,  
be endless praise addressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776-1848, alt.

**MESSAGE:** **MARTYR/WITNESS** *silence for reflection follows*

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion's mouth, rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict, and bring justice to each community. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries, and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick. Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, .... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for daily bread, 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**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Mothering God, **send us out by  
your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love  
in Jesus' name. Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

The love of God ☩ overflow in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the life of Spirit bless you and | give you peace. **Amen**

#### **SENT OUT for MISSION**

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

Live by the Spirit of hope and joy!

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

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

**We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen**

We go in peace to love and serve all. **YES, we will!**

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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, 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 my St. Peter's family.
Given by Janice Frederick.

In Loving Memory of my sister, Phillis,
on her June 28th birthday.
Given by your sister and best friend,
Doris Jean Alkire.

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

In Memory of the June 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
of Henry and Catherine Milke.  
Given by their daughter, Arlene Roth.

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Attendance for June 22, 2025: 39

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### **Peter and Paul, Apostles**

These two are an odd couple of biblical witnesses to be brought together in one commemoration. It appears that Peter would have gladly served as the editor of Paul's letters: in a letter attributed to him, Peter says that some things in Paul's letters are hard to understand. Paul's criticism of Peter is more blunt. In Galatians he points out ways that Peter was wrong. One of the things that unites Peter and Paul is the tradition that says they were martyred together on this date in 67 or 68. What unites them more closely is their common confession of Jesus Christ. In the gospel reading appointed for this day, Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ through whom the foundation of the church is established. In the second reading, we hear of Paul's faithfulness to the end, by God's help. Together Peter and Paul lay a foundation and build the framework for our lives of faith through their proclamation of Jesus Christ.

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

**Please Note:** The church and school offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th.

**Invite FRAN to Church:** Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors. Share the Good News!

**Summer Sunday School** is available for children who've just completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under! We gather for Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts at 10 am. in the Sunday school classrooms (lower level). If you're interested in helping 1 or more Sundays, please contact Mark McQuade or Ashley Kane.

**Games & Goodies:** Join St. Peter's families on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am. in the open area of the lower level (elevator access). Bring a favorite game. Goodies and beverages will be provided (bring a snack to share if you'd like to).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** Because there are many pantries and BCPS schools who offer food to the community, we are repurposing our former food pantry to distribute other needed items like toiletries, diapers, and paper products. If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. A list of needed items will be available in the bulletin and August newsletter, as well as on our website and Facebook page. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families.

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 7/13 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Road Trip VBS:** July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am.-12:30 pm. at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Registration is for children who've just completed PreK3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children must have completed at least 1 year of preschool by June 2025 and be potty trained. Register early as it closes when we've reached full capacity (60 children). To register or for questions, call the office at 410-665-1234 or email [office@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto:office@stjohnsparkville.org).

**Music Camps:** (Campette) July 28-30 from 9a-12p for students who've just completed K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and (Camp) August 11-15 from 9a-2p for students who've just completed 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Campette is \$15 per student, non-refundable, and Camp is \$25 per student, non-refundable. Registration forms and additional information can be found at [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org).

**Kids Summer Arts Camp:** August 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 9a-3p at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). The camp is for children who've just completed 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Activities include music making, dance & movement, and making art. Registration is \$225 per student and includes lunch and snacks. 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.

**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***

Are you, or someone you know, looking for a quality Christian education for your child? SPES is hosting an open house on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 pm.

SPES night at Camden Yards is Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>! Join the SPES families as the O's take on the Houston Astros. Ticket prices: Upper reserve (section 348) \$29 and Lower reserve (section 61) \$33. See the flier on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Any additional questions, call Gary at 410-547-6115.

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year has begun! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!