

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 27, 2025

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 and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

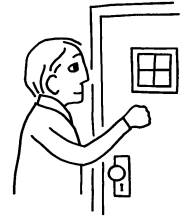
GOD'S WORD

READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

This is a reading from Genesis, chapter 18.

Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."



So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?"

And God said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there."

The LORD answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

Then Abraham said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there."

God answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there."

The LORD answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

Then Abraham said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there."

God answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 11th chapter.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he

answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

HYMN of the DAY: # 745 "Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"

- 1 Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight,
we may, we must draw near.
- 2 We perish if we cease from prayer;
oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we prepare,
Lord, meet us on our way.
- 3 Give deep humility; the sense
of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire, with confidence,
to hear your voice and live;
- 4 Faith in the only sacrifice
that can for sin atone;
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes
on Christ, on Christ alone.
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done;
thus strengthened with all might,
we, through your Spirit and your Son,
shall pray, and pray aright.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

MESSAGE **Asking** *silence for reflection follows*

The CHURCH PRAYS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. We pray for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, George, Joe, Linda, Francis, our at-home worshippers, God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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 the peace of Christ

to love and serve all. **YES, we will!**

Today's Sponsorships

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Audrey Robinson.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

In Loving Memory of my dad on his July 31<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

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Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of my husband,
Albert, for his 83rd birthday.
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

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Attendance for July 20, 2025: 31

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

**Games & Goodies:** Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am. in the fellowship area of the lower level (elevator access). Bring your favorite game. Goodies and beverages supplied. Optional to bring a snack to share.

**SPES Open House:** Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 pm. If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality Christian education, plan to attend the open house!

**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.

**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 soon. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families.

**Sponsorships Available:** Bulletins on 8/31 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 8/3, 24, & 31 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**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.

**Music 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). Registration is \$25 per student, non-refundable. Registration form and additional information can be found at [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org).

**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](http://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***

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.

Save the Dates! SPES Back to School Picnic Party on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 am.-1 pm. and Beachmont Corn Maze on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 pm. at Beachmont (6433 Mt. Vista Rd., Kingsville, 21087). More details to come!

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