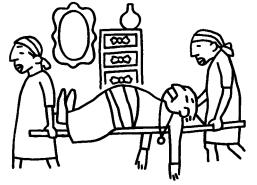


**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, August 3, 2025**



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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.* Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*Contemporary English Version*

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

This is a reading from Ecclesiastes, chapters 1 and 2.

Nothing makes sense!

Everything is nonsense.

I have seen it all—

nothing makes sense! says the Teacher.

I said these things when I lived in Jerusalem as king of Israel. With all my wisdom I tried to understand everything that happens here on earth. And God has made this so hard for us humans to do. I have seen it all, and everything is just as senseless as chasing the wind.

Suddenly I realized that others would someday get everything I had worked for so hard, then I started hating it all. Who knows if those people will be sensible or stupid? Either way, they will own everything I have earned by hard work and wisdom. It doesn't make sense.

I thought about all my hard work, and I felt depressed. When we use our wisdom, knowledge, and skill to get what we own, why do we have to leave it to someone who didn't work for it? This is senseless and wrong. What do we really gain from all of our hard work? Our bodies ache during the day, and work is torture. Then at night our thoughts are troubled. It just doesn't make sense.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4**

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

This is a reading from Colossians, chapter 3.

*Paul writes:* So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

And he said to the crowd, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say

to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 775 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"**

- 1 Jesus, priceless treasure,  
source of purest pleasure,  
truest friend to me:  
ah, how long I've panted,  
and my heart has fainted,  
thirsting, Lord, for thee!  
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;  
nothing in this world can hide thee,  
naught I ask beside thee.
- 2 In thine arm I rest me;  
foes who would molest me  
cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking,  
every heart be quaking,  
Jesus calms my fear.  
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;  
yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.
- 3 Hence, all fears and sadness,  
for the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
God, who dearly loves us,  
from all trial saves us,  
gives sweet peace within.  
I have borne this worldly scorn;  
still in thee lies purest pleasure:  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        ***Treasure***        *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.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. We pray for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl, those hospitalized or at home recuperating, 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.*

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. 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!**

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***Today's Sponsorships***

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of my family.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

~~~~~

*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of  
Marie Kreisel's August 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Volz family.

In Loving Memory of Uncle Herb Weinreich.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for July 27, 2025: 26

### ***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:** Are you, or someone you know, looking for quality Christian education? Visit our open house on Monday, August 18<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.

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

**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.

**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***

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

We are currently accepting registrations for the upcoming 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!