

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

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 17, 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.* O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

This is a reading from Jeremiah, chapter 23.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill



heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!"

How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

This is a reading from Hebrews, chapter 12.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56** *Common English Bible*

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

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

#### **We give glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does.

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky.  
How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 796 "How Firm a Foundation"**

- 1     How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
      is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
      What more can he say than to you he has said  
      who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2     "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
      for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
      I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
      upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3     "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
      my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
      The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
      your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4     "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
      my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
      and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
      like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

**MESSAGE**           **Trouble**     *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for  
God is near. *A brief silence.*

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global  
missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our  
partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us,  
O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of  
conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect  
fresh water sources. Give hope and help to those dealing with the many  
weather disasters in our world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among local and national lawmakers, including Governor Moore, Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks, and Representative Johnny Olszewski, who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead, especially our elementary school and our Family Goods Center. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. We pray for ELCA Bishop Elect Yehiel Curry and Secretary Rev. CeCee Mills, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, George, Joe, Nancy, our at-home worshippers, .... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember, with Francis, the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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 Loving Memory of my Godmother,  
Ruth Miller, for her August 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given by Ruth May.

In Honor of Kenneth Diepold's August 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.  
From Mom, Ruth Diepold.

In Honor of Cody Van Dyke's August 28<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
and Glenn Rook's birthday.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

In Celebration of Olivia Lauer's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of my aunt, Ruth Miller,  
for her August 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given by her niece, Carole Grimm.

In Loving Memory of Uncle John Bast.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for August 10, 2025: 35

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

**SPES Open House:** If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality Christian education, please attend the open house on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 pm. Can't attend? Call the school at 410-665-4521 to schedule a tour.

**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.

**Blessing of Backpacks:** Students are invited to bring in their school backpacks to either worship service on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to receive a special blessing!

**Back To School Picnic Party!** SPES invites you to celebrate the start of a new school year on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am. to 1 pm. Meet staff and make new friends! Bring a chair or blanket, food and drinks provided. Kona Ice will be available for purchase.

**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 on August 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**Flea Market:** Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 am.-12 pm. at Christus Victor Lutheran (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). To reserve a space, call 410-668-8089. Indoor spots are \$25 (table and 2 chairs provided) or outdoor spots are \$20 (provide your own table/chairs/tent/canopy).

**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***

Save the Date! SPES invites you to join them at the 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!