

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

10:15 Harvest Home

Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

GATHERING LITURGY

We bless you, God of seed and harvest, as you have richly blessed us.
Bring to harvest the seed of your Word sown in us, that the beauty of this world, and the love that created it, might be expressed though our lives as a blessing to others, now and always. Amen.

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, harvest's bounty gathered in before the snow.
Yet, God promised through Noah to all Creation, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

For summer's passing and harvest home,
We thank you, O God.

For seed that has fallen and the promise of spring,
We thank you, O God.

Together, let us confess and pray.

God our Creator, **forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the cycles of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, and our hands to share. Help our feet walk humbly on the path we tread and make our footsteps be worthy of following by virtue of them leading to you.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: God, Whose Giving Know No Ending

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store;
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;

na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one,
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.

gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,

thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAYER



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the center of Creation, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest, a fruitfulness of lives in service to you, and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you. **Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Simple Thanks

Nancy Price and Dan Besig

Lily Johns - Flute

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry!

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80:7-15 (*Read Responsively*)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

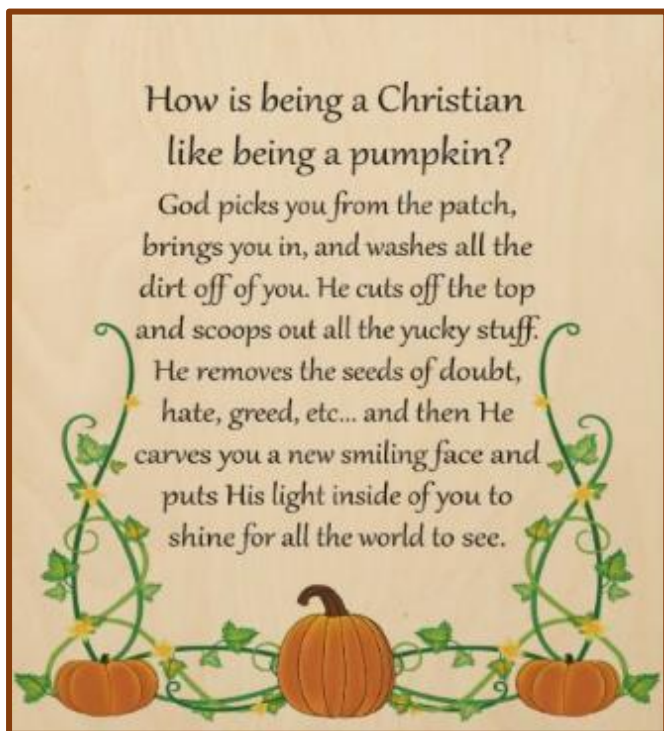
‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

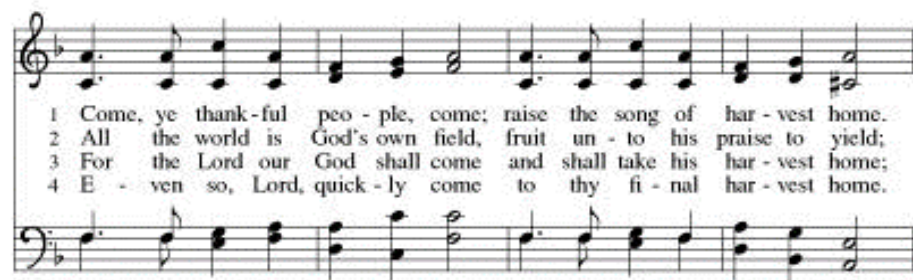
⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

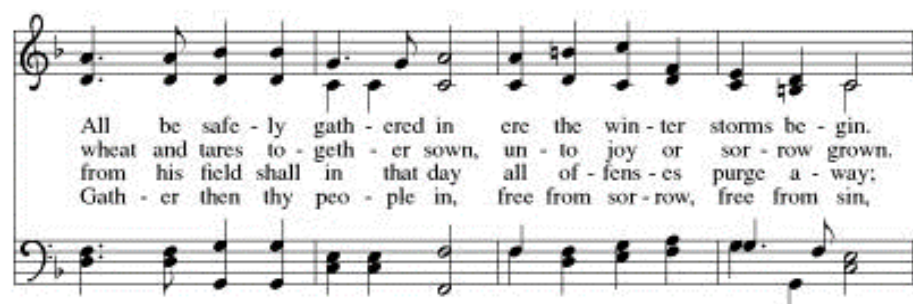
SERMON



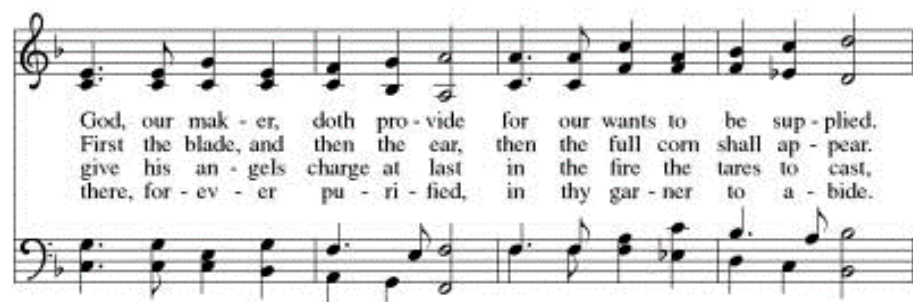
HYMN OF THE DAY: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



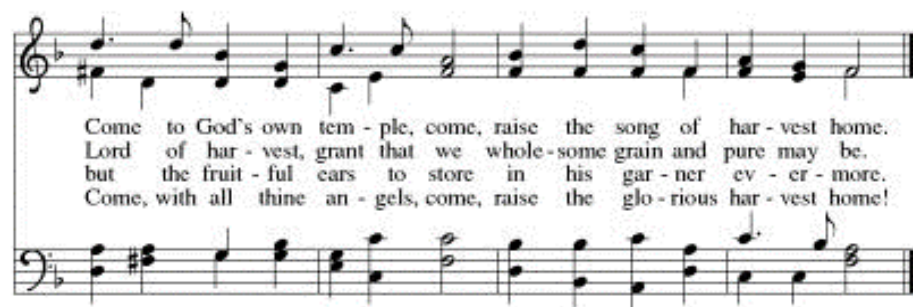
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;
 Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world including our sisters and brothers in Toliara, Madagascar, that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ.

The response for each petition is:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

OFFERTORY SONG: Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



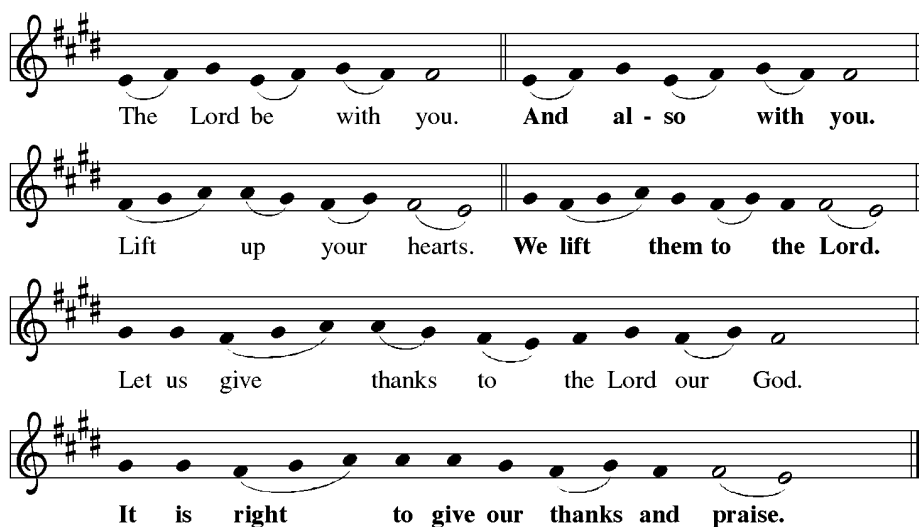
1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Father, **we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

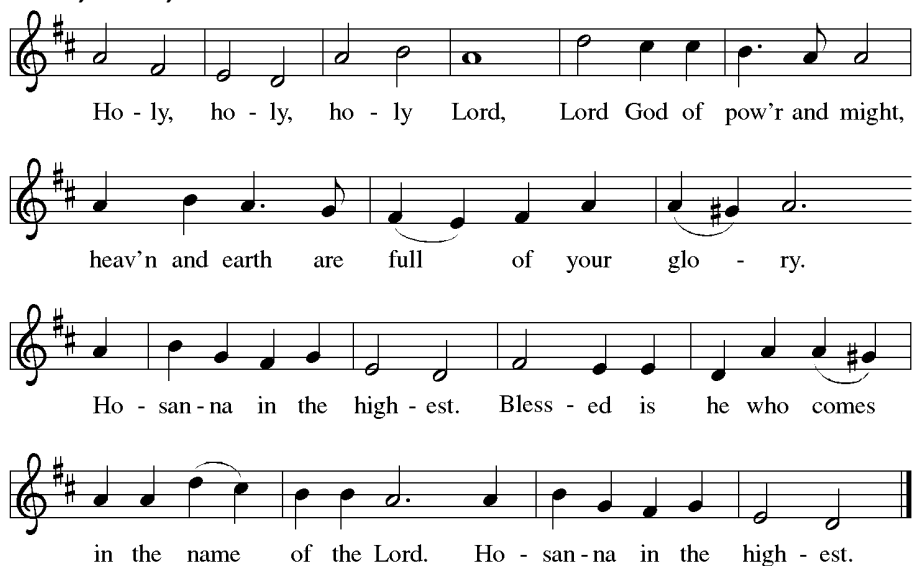
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right....join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of Life, our Host, our Sustenance, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to be food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

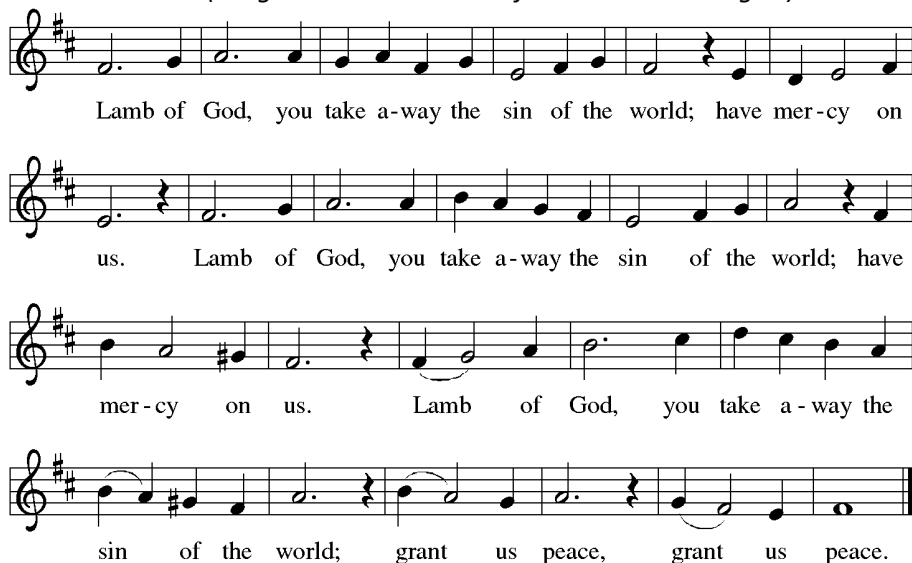
LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet. Christ gathers us in.

LAMB OF GOD *(sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Optional responses **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

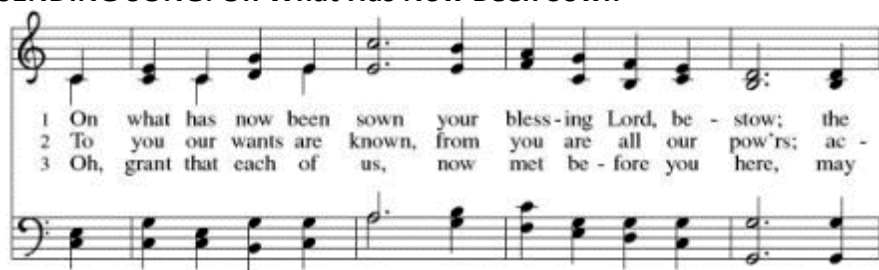
Let us pray.

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

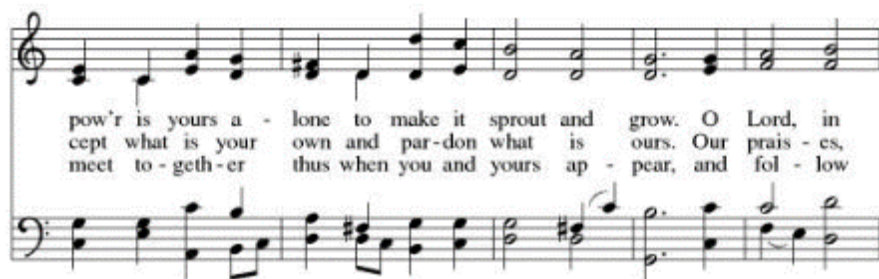
BENEDICTION (Psalm 67)

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
- ² **so that God's ways may be known on earth,
God's salvation among all nations.**
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for God rules the peoples with equity
and guides the nations of the earth.**
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.**
- ⁷ May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will
revere him. **Amen.**

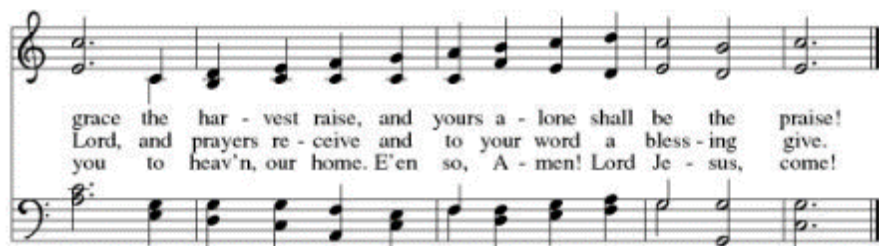
SENDING SONG: On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown, your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* Franklin Ritter

*The Altar Flowers are
presented by
Staci & Michael Bettencourt in
celebration of their 7th
wedding anniversary*

*The eternal candle
is presented by
Dan and Casey Guerriero
in honor of
their daughter Josie and her
first birthday*

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for October

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Lutheran Service Society.
If you would like to support this cause, please mark the Other line on
your contribution envelope.

<u>Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following</u>		
Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Glenn Fulghum
Luke Clawson	Nancy Riedel	Mary Kay Knox
Mary Watson	Lori Rasp	Tom Smith
Marty Smith	Mia Maust	Kathy Z.
The Green/Morra Family	Tricia Wright Voelzke	Ken Wilson
The family of John Reinhart	Raquel Barron	Garrie Wearing
Zachary Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Kay Burr
Ed & Audrey Smith	Kelly’s Mom	Bill Boice
Blessings for the marriage of Kenzie & Brandon Nulph and Hannah & Chad Miller		
Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter’s in your prayers. “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16		

Blood Drive – We will be working with Vitalant to host a blood drive
on Monday, October 30th from 2-7pm. If you need help signing up to
donate, please let Pastor know. Also, if you would like to be part of
the hospitality team, welcoming people to our church and/or
providing cookies for donors, please let Pastor know that as well.

PumpkinFest – Save the date for our seventh annual PumpkinFest, which will take place on Saturday, October 21st beginning at 5:30pm. Expect heavy doses of our usual fantastic attractions, like pumpkin carving, pumpkin treats, and the spooky house, plus new twists and treats. Support our After School Program and be a part of the event that has people saying every year, “Orange you glad you came?!”

Bible Study – Our weekly Bible study has returned! We gather on Thursday nights at 7pm via Zoom. Does the word “study” give you chills? Have no fear; this gathering is for you! We dig into the upcoming Sunday’s lessons with humor and levity and no question is ever too silly or too serious. Hope you’ll join in!

Turkey Dinner – Save the date for our annual Turkey Dinner. It will be on Saturday, November 4th this year. The poster for donations is hanging up now. Thank you in advance for your help, and please remember as you sign up to take the corresponding feather with you so we don’t accidentally duplicate each other’s work. All proceeds from our Turkey Dinner this year will go to the Jason family to support them in their ongoing medical battle.

Choirs – Please note, no time like the present to put a ring on it, as Bell Choir begins today! All joking aside, our senior choir, Christmas Cantata choir, and bell choir have all restarted their rehearsals. We are grateful for the music ministry of this congregation and for our reputation as a musically talented and enthusiastic congregation. However, these vitally important ministries only are able to continue as long as we step up and join together offering our time and talents on behalf of this community and to the glory of God.

Today’s Mums Are Sponsored by the Following:

To The Glory of God

- By The Erin Family
- By Charlie & Patti Flach
- By Christine & Pastor Johns
- By Teresa O’Malley



In Loving Memory Of

- Agnes and Bob Watson by Helen Barto
- Ron & Dan Budisky and Ron & Ken Crider by Eileen Budisky
- Lydia Grace by Neal and Beverly Critchlow
- Bob Domhoff, Charles M. & Mabel A. Peters and Lynette Wingard
by Marlene Domhoff
- Harold Graham by Barbara Graham
- George, Sandra, Greg, Alan and Lydia by Bea King
- To all of our family and friends who have gone before us
by Teresa O'Malley
- Ruth & John Watson and Frank & Freda Merrison
by Debbie & Jim Merrison
- Rege Rengers and Dave Piper by Becky Rengers
- Beryl George and Bryon Schmidt by Dennis & Inez Schmidt
- Dot Marburger and David VanDyke by Robin VanDyke
- Emery and Esmon Hornok, Joyce Ice, and Dean Vassilaros
by Leah Vassilaros
- Paul Wingard and Lynette Wingard by Lucille Wingard

In Honor Of

- Our grandchildren: Madelyn, Hazin, Maisie & Nora by Helen Barto
- Bea King by Neal and Beverly Critchlow
- Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren
by Barbara Graham
- Josie Guerriero, Amy Grigorovich and Arlene John
by Daniel & Casey Guerriero
- My family and friends by Teresa O'Malley
- Marge & Garrie Wearing's 50th wedding anniversary
by Becky Rengers
- Luann Brosius by Lucille Wingard



St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Friday	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Oct. 9	6:30 pm	Fellowship
	7:00 pm	Boy/Cub Scouts
Wed. Oct. 11	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	8:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Thurs. Oct. 12	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Sat. Oct. 13	12:00 pm	Luther Hall Reserved

Worship Volunteers – Anyone, third grade and older interesting in learning how to acolyte or teens and adults interested in becoming lectors, assisting ministers, ushers, or bell ringers, please see Pastor and we'll schedule a training when it works for those interested.

Today is the last day to sign up for **the Madagascar dinner** on 10/15!



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Presiding Bishop (ELCA)
 Synodical Bishop (SWPA Synod)
 Pastor
 Organist & Music Director
 Sexton
 Secretary
 Acolyte
 Assisting Minister
 Bell Ringer
 Greeters
 Lector
 Nursery
 Tech Support
 Ushers

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
 The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
 The Rev. Brandon Johns
 Marlene Domhoff
 Joe Ludwik
 Kimberly Peaco
 Lily Johns
 Glenn Fluglum
 Troy Barkley
 Troy & Beverly Barkley
 Ted Lindgren III
 Beverly Barkley
 Heidi Beahm
 Cindy & Tom Ayers

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

Staying in Touch:

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment. Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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