

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



27 "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what
we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not
loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on
us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in
your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and
ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I
therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in
the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,


a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

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.**

KYRIE


Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *Faithful Shepherd Medley* Tom Fettke

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

PSALM 1 (Read Responsively)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you,

both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and

was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.

Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848

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.

INSTALLATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a
witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-
giving and confront the forces of death.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus
Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

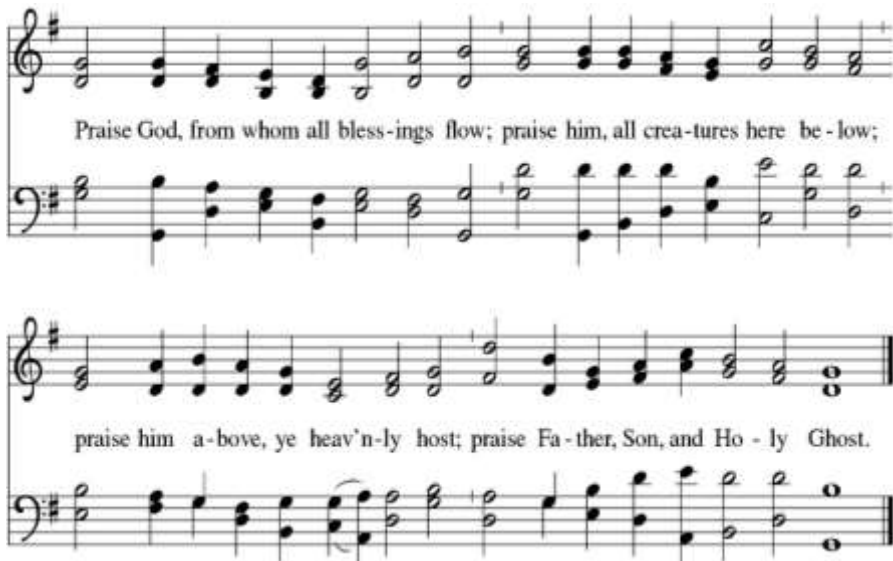
PEACE

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: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. *(silence)* Merciful God, **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

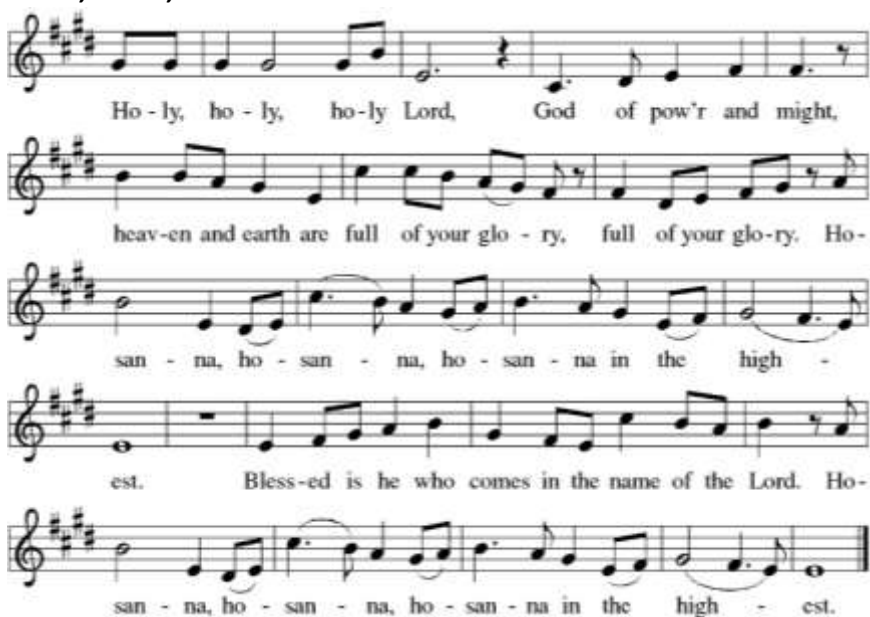
We lift them to the Lord.

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



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



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, for all is now ready.

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, Lamb of God.

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. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

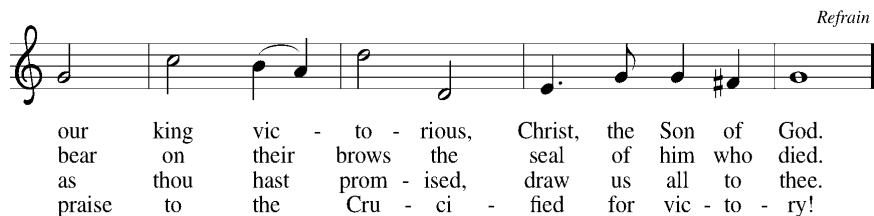
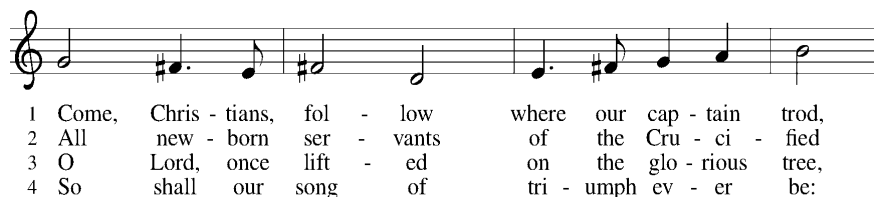
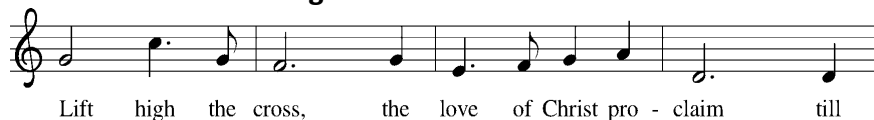
BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Lift High the Cross



Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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SHARING FOR SERVING: Birthdays and Mission Notices

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Fantasy in D Minor

Lani Smith

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	John Wilson
Stephanie Hogan	Mary Fulghum	Pr. Jack Delk
Chele Malis	Carmen & Sandra Morra	Jules Stella
Mike Mashuda	Missy Cunningham	Bea King
Donna Meyerl	Berty McMillen	Rick Novella
Tim Fullerton	Tristan Cecelic	Rick Reifenstein
Jim Schrader	David Wobb	Eilene Budisky

Families of Carol Kerr, Judy Smith, Fred Sharrer, Ella Jean Jordan, Dave Grubbs, and the school shooting victims

*The Altar Flowers are given by
Wesley & Linda Schmidt
in Celebration of our 28th
wedding anniversary*



*The Eternal Candle is given
by Karen Ferrari
in Loving Memory of
Robert & Edith Sarver*



APPLE FEST – Mark your calendars for this annual fellowship event. Whether this is your first year or you’re decades into making them, we’ll be happy to see you at any or all of the following dates and times as we enjoy each other’s company as we make our treats!

Apple Fest: Sept. 19, 20, 21

Apple Cutting for Apple Butter: Fri. Sept. 12th at 8:30 am

Apple Butter Making: Sat. Sept. 13th at 5:00 am - ?

Rummage Sale – This Sunday after worship, we will begin to collect clean, gently used items for our rummage sale. Please no electronics and all large items like furniture might need to be taken back if they go unsold. Also, please sign up to volunteer to help!



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Lisa French
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Asst. Minister	Robin VanDyke
Lector	Teresa O'Malley
Acolyte	Gus Mosser
Bell Ringer	Wes Schmidt
Ushers	Dan & Casey Guerriero
Nursery	Cheryl Thomas
Tech Support	Adam Price
Greeters	Dan & Casey Guerriero

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. September 8	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tues. September 9	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wed. September 10	10:00 am	Community Sewers
	12 pm	Lunch Bunch
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. September 11	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. September 12	8:00 am	Apple Cutting
Sat. September 13	5:00 am	Apple Butter Making

Worship Volunteers – If you are interested in being an Usher, Assisting Minister, Lector, Bell Ringer, Altar Guild, or Acolyte, then please talk to Pastor. We have a great list of volunteers doing a wonderful job but more involvement is welcomed and encouraged!

Spaghetti Dinner - We are in need of a nomination for a family or individual to support this year. Please see Pastor with ideas.

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. You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice. 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).

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 secretary is in the church office Monday-Friday, 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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