

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
15TH Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021, 10:30 am
Service of Holy Communion**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter:

Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen

GATHERING SONG

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#858

1. **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
2. **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
3. **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
4. **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

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.

LITANY FOR THE BLESSING OF OUR LABORS

Almighty God, when you formed us lovingly out of the dust of the earth,
you breathed into us the breath of life and gave us work and purpose for living.

You placed Adam in the garden to till and keep it.

Through our work, you have made us co-creators with you,
shaping the world in which we live.

Through our work, you give us dignity and strength.

By our labor, we enrich the world.

By our labor, we enjoy the fruits of creation.

By our labor, we find direction and purpose.

By our labor, our families are made secure.

For providing varieties of work and for blessing us by our labor,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who plow the fields and those who make the plow;

for steelworkers and machinists;

for those who work with their hands and those who move the earth,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who tend the sick and those who seek new cures;

for doctors and nurses, for scientists and technicians;

for counselors and psychologists,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who think and those who create;

for inventors and explorers, for artists and musicians;

for those who write, and those who entertain,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work in offices and those who work in warehouses;

for secretaries and receptionists, for stockers and bookkeepers;

for those who market products and for those who move them,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who inspire our minds and those who motivate us;

for teachers and preachers, for social workers and church workers;

for those who help the poor and those who work with our children,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those whose labor is tidiness and cleanliness;

for janitors and sanitary workers and housekeepers;

for those who produce cleaning products and those who use them,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who protect us and our nations;

for military personnel and fire fighters,

for law enforcement officers and elected officials,

we give you thanks, O Lord.

You bless us all with skills and gifts for labor.

**You provide us with opportunities to use them for the benefit of others
as well as ourselves.**

Guard and protect those who labor in the world.

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord.

Look kindly upon the unemployed and the disabled.

Give health to the sick and hope to the poor.

Keep us from laboring only for greed.

Make us loving and responsible in all that we do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Be with your people where they work; make the leaders of business and industry responsive to your will; and to all of us, give pride in what we do and a just return for our labor; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God,

O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

CHOIR ANTHEM**SECOND READING**

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

p.124

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**GOSPEL**

Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.**Glory to you, O Lord.**

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the

Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord of All Nations, Grant me Grace"

#716

1. **Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, every race;
and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.**
2. **Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue; let Christian love bind warm and true.**
3. **Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do will crucify my Lord anew.**
4. **Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.**
5. **With thine own love may I be filled and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where'er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.**

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**MEAL****OFFERING SONG**

"Accept O Lord the Gifts We Bring"

#691

1. **Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.**
2. **The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.**
3. **Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 129

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

p. 130

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS (Sunday only) *"Lamb of God"* p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"We Come to You for Healing Lord"

#617

1. **We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul, and pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.**
2. **As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain, come, risen Christ, among us still with pow'r to heal again.**
3. **You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care, and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**
4. **When nights are long with wakefulness, through our distress and pain, in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

"Now the Silence"

#460

1. **Now the silence now the peace now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling now the plea now the Father's arms in welcome
Now the hearing how the pow'r now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body now the blood now the joyful celebration
Now the wedding now the songs now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the spirit's visitation now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing now now now.**

TABLE BLESSING

At the conclusion: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion: Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion: Amen.

SENDING SONG*"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

#719

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
2. In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed threshold dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.
3. From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, you heart has never known recoil.
4. The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.
5. O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again;
6. Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE