

18th Sunday after Pentecost



St Peter's Lutheran Church
October 1, 2023

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Welcome to All in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Lord Jesus, you look on us with compassion and seek us when we are lost. Lord, have mercy.

C: Forgive our straying from your path and help us to forgive others. Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you have mercy on all who need healing and comfort. Christ, have mercy.

C: Forgive us when we forget to turn to you in our troubles. Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you plead for sinners at the throne of judgment. Lord, have mercy.

C: Forgive us when we try to defend ourselves instead of trusting you. Lord, have mercy.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Apostolic Greeting

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

Canticle
Of
Praise
#719
Blue

God Is Here!

3



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. . . . God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading – *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

A reading from Ezekiel

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ¹⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ¹¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-8

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²**Let none who look to you be put to shame;**
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁴**Lead me in your truth and teach me,**
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compas-¹ sion and love,
for they are from ¹ everlasting.

⁶**Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of
our good-¹ ness, O LORD.**

⁷Gracious and upright ¹ is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners ¹ in his way.

⁸**He guides the humble in ¹ doing right
and teaches his way ¹ to the lowly.**

Second Reading — *Philippians 2:1-13*

A reading from Philippians

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

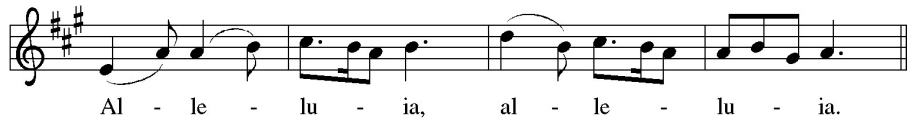
P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The cantor will sing the alleluia once alone and then the congregation repeats it.

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*





Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, ¹ says the Lord; *
 I know them and they ¹ follow me. *Alleluia.* (John 10:27)

Holy Gospel — *Matthew 21:23-32*

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

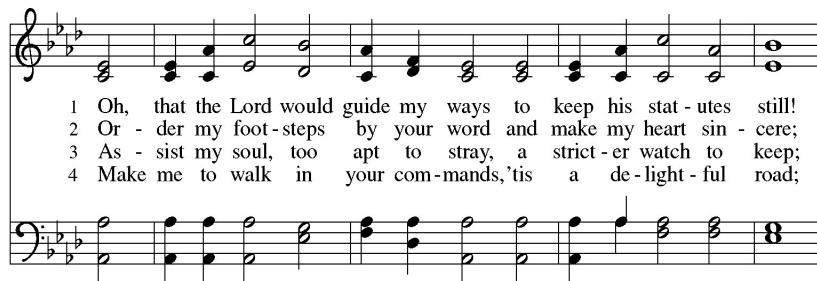
P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Message


The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

**Hymn
of the
Day**
#480
Green

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Apostles' Creed

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will come again 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 the Church

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray to the Father for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, strengthen your church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Guide them by your Holy Spirit in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Lead us in righteousness and justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, caring for the needs of all people. Turn the hearts of our enemies toward you. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Grant your healing presence with caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way, especially those we name now.....*[pause]*. Give them encouragement and consolation through the work of your church. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Teach us your paths as we live as congregations. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Accept our thanks for all the saints who died in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of Christ's resurrection and promise to come in glory. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Peace

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection. God does not hold our sins against us. This is true peace, Like Jesus with his disciples, pastor shares the word of reconciliation from God to us.

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

We share Christ's forgiving and reconciling love with one another, binding ourselves to one another as community. As we are at peace with God, so we are also at peace with one another.

Thanksgiving We respond to God's abundant grace and mercy

Support God's Mission

Offering *Please consider making your thank offering to God ...*

By Mail to St. Peter's Lutheran Church 947 N. George St. York PA

Or *SCAN HERE* >



Or *ONLINE* at www.StPetersLutheranYork.com.

In the **Purple** box, Click **Donate** button to set up a one-time or recurring donation.

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Thanksgiving For the Word

P: Righteous and loving heavenly Father, we give thanks to you that you light our way through life with the teachings of your Son, Jesus, your Word alive among us. Give us the focus we need to pay attention to you, call us back to you when we stray from your ways, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring the full harvest of believers to share your feast. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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

**C: 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.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

#776
ELW

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail , me

The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
 on dan - ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.

My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will

fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Susan Becker—Tom Bruslan—Evelin Burgos—Janice Cromer—Rich Davis—Don Gise—Shelva Gise—Bruce Harget—Cheryl Hibner—Samantha Hilker—Ken Humphreys—Marsha Humphreys—Lori Joseph—Shirley Lutz—Ron Malehorn—Fabian Marrero—Michele McFarland—Philip Michael—Brenda Croumer Miller—Charlie Neff—Rowan Neff—Scott Neff—Michael Noll—Kathy Pugh—Dolores Rehmeyer—Betty Roach—Donna Roach—Nancy Stough Miller—Emma Smyser—Nicole Smyser—Mia Snyder—James Thompson—Vickie Toomey—Matthew Walters—Zach Weiland—Margaret Wiley—Dave Yates—Lois Yates—Stephen Young.

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Arnold—Norma Buck—Bill Everhart—Don Everhart—Helen Everhart—Doris Hoffacker—Ken & Joyce Innerst—Carla & Mike Lehr—John Lehr—Jean Leiphart—Joanne V. Martin—Marguerite Ness—Betty Roach—Lois Smith—Lois Snyder—Joyce Topper

St. Peter's Lutheran

Oktoberfest — Saturday, September 30 — 12:00-2:00 PM

Rain or Shine! Bring your own lawn chairs.

—Live Music from the Dockenspielers—ZED Fries—Desserts

Mark your calendars. More info will be coming soon.

Blessing of the Animals — Sunday, October 1, 1:00 PM

At St. Peter's Lutheran — Bring your pet (or a photo of your pet)

Hand Bell Rehearsal — Thursdays, 6:30 PM — at St. Peter's Lutheran

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

OFFERING

General \$ 990.00

HVAC \$ 55.00

Masonry \$ 60.00

Capital Omprovement \$ 120.00

Memorial Fund \$ 500.00



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PARTNER # 20144

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York, PA 17403

(717) 412-7706

Located in the Queensgate Shopping Center!

God's Has a Mission!

As disciples and stewards of Jesus Christ, we, the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church are committed to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God to all people. We will reach out to one another and to others, giving and receiving, in worship, fellowship, and witness to Jesus Christ!

We belong to:

- ◆ The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
- ◆ The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- ◆ The Lower Susquehanna Synod—Bishop James Dunlop.
- ◆ The York Conference—The Rev. Stanley Reep, Dean
Trinity, Wrightsville; St. James, Hellam; St. Mark, York; Advent, York; Christ, York; Union, York; St. Matthew, York; St. Jacob, York New Salem; Shiloh; Trinity, York; Grace, York; Zion, York; St. Peter's, York; St. Paul, York; Luther Memorial, York; Christ, Spry; St. James, York.
- ◆ We are partners with the Iyunga Parish in Tanzania, Pastor Jimmy Mwakomile, and the Konde Diocese, Bishop Edward Mwaikali

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
947 North George Street, York PA 17404
8:45 AM—Worship Service



Church Staff

The Reverend Beth A. Schlegel, *STS* Pastor
Terri Schroll Secretary
Kristen Hartman—Susan Hartman Sextons

Our phone number is: 717-854-0589

Our Website is: <http://www.stpeterslutheranyork.org>

Our Email Address is: stpeterslutheran@verizon.net

Pastor Beth Schlegel: Phone #: 717-495-8894

Email: pastorschlegel@live.com

This Week **CHURCH** **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Wednesday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Thursday & Friday
Office Closed