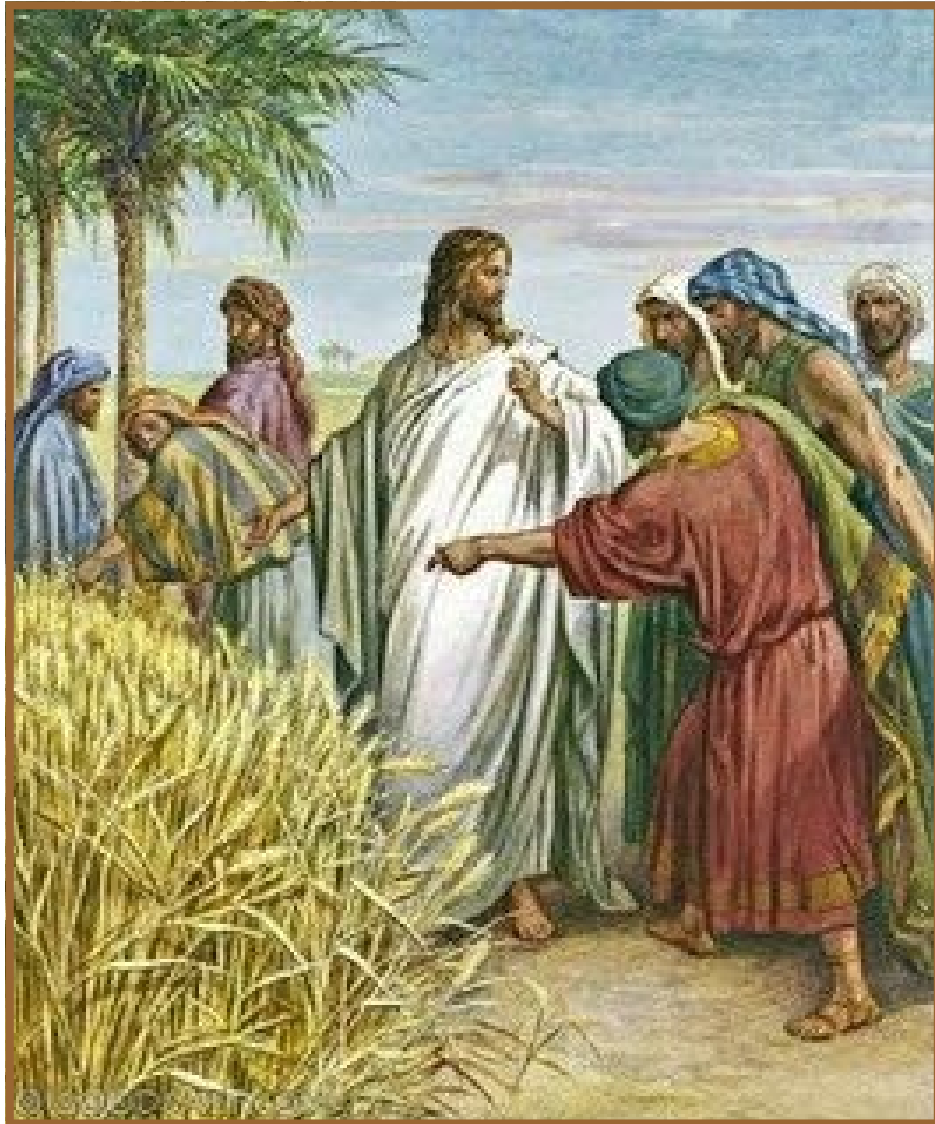


8th Sunday after Pentecost



St Peter's Lutheran Church
July 23, 2023

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023

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 show us the Father's love and grace. Lord, have mercy. **C: We confess our failure to love others as you love us. Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you defeated death and give life to all who keep your word. Christ, have mercy. **C: We confess that we ignore your word and miss out on abundant life. Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, with gifts for the good of all. Lord, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we do not use our gifts and forget the needs of others. Lord, have mercy.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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.**

Hymn
Of
Praise
#681
ELW

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
 You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. . . . Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, 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 — *Isaiah 44:6-8*

A reading from Isaiah

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk ¹ in your truth; knit my heart to you that I may ¹ fear your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O LORD my God, with ¹ all my heart, and glorify your name for-¹ evermore.**

¹³For great is your ¹ love toward me; you have delivered me from the neth-¹ ermost pit.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men ¹ seeks my life; they have not set you be-¹ fore their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O LORD, are gracious and full ¹ of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kind-¹ ness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mer-¹ cy upon me; give your strength to your servant; and save the child ¹ of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and ¹ be ashamed; because you, O LORD, have helped me and com-¹ forted me.

Second Reading — *Romans 8:12-25*

A reading from Romans

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live

according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Gospel Acclamation #611a

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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



Alleluia. My word shall accomplish that¹ which I purpose,^{*} and succeed in the thing for¹ which I sent it. *Alleluia.* (Isa. 55:11)

Holy Gospel — Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot

the wheat along with them. ³⁶Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect

out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom

of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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
#952
ACS

The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field

1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995
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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: Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers to the Father for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

P: O God, equip your church to announce the good news of Christ's reconciliation and truth to people near us and far away. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Bring about peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and

teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Be gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction, especially those we name now..... Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Open our hearts and our hospitality to welcome all, equip us for faithful living, and empower our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accept our thanks for sending faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the saints, including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 ...*

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Thanksgiving For the Word

P: O God of abundant life, we give thanks to you that you give us life through your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Open our ears, minds, and hearts to abide in your Word as branches abide in Christ the Vine, so that the fruit we bear in our lives might give you glory and lead others to experience your love. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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 #234 Green

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick - 'ning grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

**A Happy 70th wedding anniversary [July 28] to
*Charles & Marion Neff.***

We love and appreciate all the wonderful memories you have given us!
By your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grand-
children.

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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

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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 Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Friday
Office Closed