



# Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.  
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Chris Fusco, Music Director  
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*October 8, 2023*

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others*

**Welcome.** "Let the vineyards be fruitful" is a song we sing many Sunday mornings as the offerings are brought to the altar. Today's readings use that same imagery of a vineyard to teach us about the importance of bearing spiritual fruit. The key to this is Christ. When his love and lordship are standing in the center of God's vineyard, the Church will be fruitful. When other things crowd in to take his place, the fruit disappears. Lord, help us to keep Jesus at the center of our lives!

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

# ***Divine Service, Setting Two***

*LSB page 167*

## ***The Preparation***

**Prelude** “Voluntary in a minor” - J. Stanley

**Words of Welcome**

## ***The Service of the Word***

**Invocation, Confession and Absolution** (page 167)

**Opening Hymn:** 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

**Kyrie** (page 168)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise** This is the Feast (page 171)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**



## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men  
who killed Him.

Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love,  
and grant us the fullness of Your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 5:1-7 (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 80:7-19 (spoken responsively)

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C: **You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

P: You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

C: **The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

P: It sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.

C: **Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck  
its fruit?**

P: The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.

C: **Turn again, O God of hosts!  
Look down from heaven, and see;**

**have regard for this vine, the stock that your  
right hand planted,  
and for the son whom you made strong for  
yourself.**

P: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it  
down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

C: **But let your hand be on the man of your right  
hand,  
the son of man whom you have made  
strong for yourself!**

P: Then we shall not turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call upon your  
name!

C: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Epistle Reading:** Philippians 3:4b-14 (see back cover)

**Alleluia Verse** (page 173)

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

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:33-46 (see back cover)

Acclamations (sung): **Glory to you, O Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Apostles Creed** (see inside the back cover of the hymnal)

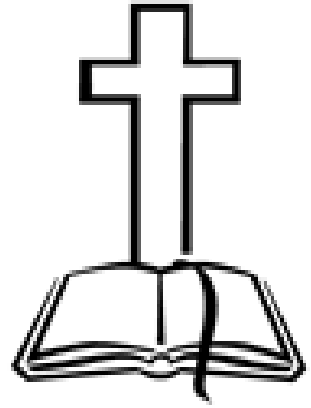
**Hymn of the Day:** 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

**Sermon**

**Prayers** After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,  
C: **Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Request List** (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

Caldwell Family	Comfort at the death of Ralph	Teschke
McCarthy/Gering/Rousseau Families	Comfort at the death of Marla	Dunbar
Consoli Family	Comfort at the death of Alfred	Wilhelm
Karen Nelson	Health issues	Hofer
Judy Grube	Surgery for broken hip while in Spain	Grube
Art Garrow	Broken ribs, internal injuries from bike fall	Garrow
Nathan Wilhelm	Successful treatment with new medication infusion	Wilhelm
Barry Band	Pneumonia	Yost
Mina Ciqus	In hospice	Teschke
Bob Van Hise	Detached retina - surgery and recovery of vision	Van Hise
Brennan	Full recovery from Ranger training medical emergency	Gewecke
Phillip Trivett	Spinal injury from ATV accident, in rehab	Heebner
Bob Latimer	Recent heart surgery, waiting liver transplant	Yost
Kay Compton	Recovering from a shoulder replacement	Nuneviller
Pat Dietz	Brain therapy	Teschke
Family of Olga Nichols	Safety and protection (live in Ukraine)	Gewecke



***For those with cancer:***

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Kathy	Kathy Lamkin
Rich Knechel	Jane	Rose Bonecki	Lynn
Mary Ellen	Carol Tezla	Rich deDufour	Linda
Aaron Kline	Edward Keenan	Karen Shevchuk	

***For those serving in the armed forces:***

Jake Grube	LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske
Daniel Gewecke			

***For those suffering around the world:***

War in Europe      prayers for peace and forgiveness

**Birthdays**

Cathy Hicks	Oct 10	Jenny Barrett	Oct 5
Andy Wright	Oct 10		

**Anniversaries**

Steve and Zen deDufour	Oct 12	Greg and Kim Robinson	Oct 13
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**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

**Instrumental Offertory:** “Erhalt uns Herr” – J.S. Bach

**Congregational Offertory:** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord (LSB 955)

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

***The Service of the Sacrament***

**Order of Holy Communion** (page 177)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising you and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven...**

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Agnus Dei

**C: 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.**



Distribution Hymn: 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Post Communion Canticle: Thank the Lord (page 181)

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.**

**Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.**

**He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

**Benediction** (page 183)

**Closing Hymn:** 785 We Praise You, O God

**Announcements**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Erschienen ist der Heilige Tag" – J. S. Bach



**Announcements – Week of October 8, 2023**

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**

**Tues., Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 – 3:00 to help.**

**Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant), Amy Van Hise (Reader), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Steve deDufour (Usher), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Amy Van Hise (Communion Set up and Clean up).

**Sunday Bible Study.** This Sunday we start a new 8-week study of the book of Ecclesiastes. Cynical attitudes about life can be found everywhere in our day. People are craving fulfillment but looking in all the wrong places. Ecclesiastes is an inspired piece of Old Testament wisdom literature that takes an unvarnished look at the world. But through the author's own wrestlings, it also gives divine guidance on how to keep our cynicism in check, and our eyes fixed on the One who reigns above the sun! Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 to prepare.

**Sunday School Classes.** Sunday School classes for all ages have restarted! Amy Van Hise is our elementary age teacher, and Hope Dunbar teaches our high school youth. (Joe Scheblein is subbing for Hope while she is away.) Classes meet during the adult bible study hour from 8:15-9:15am in the lower level of the church. Let's grow together in God's Word this year!

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our next study will begin at Acts 13:1. Paul and Barnabas are sent by the Holy Spirit on their first missionary journey. They encounter a magic-wielding opponent of the Gospel, as well as ordinary citizens eager to listen to their message of Christ. The same is true of our mission field today. Some are hardened against Christ while others are hungry to know more about Him. Holy Spirit, guide Your Church in mission! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org))

**Invitation to be a Church Usher.** If you would like to join the many members of our congregation who usher for our Worship Service, please contact Bob Maguire. We would love to add some women and couples to our team! Usually ushers are scheduled once every 2-3 months. We have developed an instructional guide to help you learn everything you need to know for this simple but essential part of our service. Come join us!

**Flowers.** A Flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion. The suggested donation is \$25.

**This service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/ZdRiRtQOSOM?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

### **Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Recognition for Kim Robinson.** On Sunday, October 15th there will be a reception with light refreshments for Kim Robinson to honor 15 years as our church administrative assistant! Join us after the worship service for fellowship and a gift presentation to show Kim our appreciation for her devoted service.

**St. Peter's Ladies Fall Tea.** You are cordially invited to our Ladies Fall Tea on Saturday October 21, 2023 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up for you to bring your favorite tea treat specialty. Please feel free to bring a friend, mom, or daughter, etc! Suggested attire is Tea Party Dress, and bring a favorite tea cup. RSVP to the Church Office, please.



**Updated address for Ed Beck.** Ed can now be reached at his son's address at 741 Philadelphia Road, Easton, PA 18042. He'd enjoy hearing from you!

**Prayer Chain.** The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

### *Service and Other*

**Operation Christmas Child.** As we look forward to next year's box packing event, we are collecting certain supplies during each month. For October we're focusing on combs (need 50) and toothbrushes (need 80), so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

**Food Pantry.** If you can, please remember to grab non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. October's collection is PASTA: penne, rigatoni, spirals, bow ties, spaghetti, linguini, lasagna, and pasta sauce. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the hall sign-up.

**Faithfulness Report** (10/1) Attendance 46  
General Fund: \$ 4724 Flowers: \$85

(Weekly contributions of approximately \$6,000 are needed to meet our Congregation approved 2023 budget.)

**Website and Facebook.** Our website is at [stpeternj.org](http://stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612> .

### **Weekly Schedule.**

MONDAY (10/9)	Noon Elders Meeting
TUESDAY (10/10)	6:00am Men's Breakfast at Orlando's; 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (10/11)	7:30pm Zoom Bible study
THURSDAY (10/12)	9:45/11:45am Nursery School Chapel services; 6:30pm NJDU Strategy Session
FRIDAY (10/13)	5pm Beer Tasting Men's Fellowship at Steve DeDufour's home
SATURDAY (10/14)	9am-2pm NJDU Session #6 at Redeemer, Westfield
SUNDAY (10/15)	8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 6:30pm H.S. Youth Group at St. Paul, Flemington

### **Other Important web links.**

NJ District LCMS	<a href="http://njdistrict.org">njdistrict.org</a>
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	<a href="http://lcms.org">lcms.org</a>
LCMS World Relief and Human Care	<a href="http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief">lcms.org/ca/worldrelief</a>
“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast	<a href="http://lhm.org">lhm.org</a>



## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading:

#### Isaiah 5:1–7

- 1 Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.
- 2 He 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;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.
- 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.
- 4 What more was there to do for my vine-  
yard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?
- 5 And 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.
- 6 I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.
- 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

### Epistle: Philippians 3:4b–14

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ,

the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33–46

<sup>33</sup>[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup>And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup>When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus 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 marvelous in our eyes?’”

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup>And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.