

Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! There's an old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind." And how true that often is with matters of faith. As time passed, Moses urged the Israelites not to forget what miracles they'd seen the LORD do, or the commandments He handed down on Mt. Sinai. The creature comforts of the Promised Land created a temptation to become lazy in their faith. (Deut. 4) Jesus taught us the true meaning of defilement. The Pharisees wanted to focus on outward things they could see, like dirty hands and clothing. But the real source of uncleanness in all of us is a heart and mind that's been corrupted by sin. (Mark 7) "Create in me a clean heart, O God!"

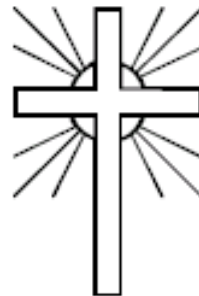
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available 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 Three

LSB page 184

The Preparation



Prelude: “Vater unser in Himmelreich” – J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution page 184

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: 554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Kyrie page 186 (*sung*)

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis page 187 (*sung*)

P: Glory be to God on high:

**C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer;
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day page 189

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

O God,
the source of all that is just and good,
nourish in us every virtue
and bring to completion every good intent;
that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works;
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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136



¹²⁹ Your testimonies are | wonderful; *
therefore my soul | keeps them.

¹³⁰ The unfolding of your | words gives
light; *
it imparts understanding to the | simple.

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant, *
because I long for your
com- | mandments.

¹³² Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me, *
as is your way with those who | love
your name.

¹³³ Keep steady my steps according to
your | promise, *
and let no iniquity get dominion | over
me.

¹³⁴ Redeem me from man's op- | pression, *
that I may keep your | precepts.

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon
your | servant, *
and teach me your | statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed | streams of tears, *
because people do not | keep your law.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 190 (*sung*)
C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.
C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Mark 7:14-23 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (page 191 or the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 665 Be Strong in the Lord

Sermon



Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Voluntary in G” – H. Heron

Congregational Offertory: Create In Me page 192 -193 (*sung*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

C: (*sung*) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.

Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

C: (*spoken*) **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

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

C: **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (please greet one another with the words: “The peace of the Lord be with you.”, responding “And also with you.”)

Agnus Dei page 198 (*sung*)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; grant us Thy peace. Amen

Distribution Hymn: 570 Just as I Am

Post Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis page 199 (sung)

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, **C: and His mercy endureth forever.**
P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) **C: Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with thy spirit.**
P: Bless we the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202 (spoken)

P: The Lord bless you... **C: Amen.**



Closing Hymn: 735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!
C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: “Jesu, meine Freude” – J. S. Bach

TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Hymn of the Day, LSB 665 Be Strong in the Lord

Today’s Hymn of the Day was written by Timothy Dudley-Smith (Dec 26, 1926- Aug 12, 2024), an Anglican bishop who wrote over 400 hymns, 16 of which are included in our hymnal, including LSB 861 Christ Be My Leader and LSB 935 Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness of the Lord. This hymn was written while he was mulling over Ephesians 6:10-18, and “has become one of only a few piece-by-piece versifications of the full armor of God.” It is an excellent example of his belief that a hymn “should be straightforward and comprehensible to the worshiper in the brief moment of singing...a clear and direct interpretive paraphrase of the biblical text.”

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns.* (2019), p. 864-866

Memory Verse Challenge: Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Announcements – Week of August 25, 2024

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

NOTE THE CHANGE, STARTING 9/9 >>> MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Fred Grube (Communion and reader), Juliet Behnfeldt (acolyte), Stephen Behnfeldt and Joe Scheblein (ushers), Jesse Dunbar (live-streaming), Judy Grube and Hope Dunbar (coffee and communion set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/6XycU6ZqnQU?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.

NEW Sunday Bible Study: How We Got the Bible. Next Sunday, **September 8th at 8:15am**, we'll begin a new 5-week study called How We Got the Bible. Each week we'll watch and discuss a video by Dr. Paul Maier that answers important questions like: Where did the Bible come from? Who wrote it, and why? Who decided which books to include? What about critics who question its reliability? Participants in this study will gain a new appreciation of God's Word as our primary source of truth and "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (1 Timothy 3:16b).

A special note from Pastor Jon: After-Service Sermon Discussion Continues into Fall! Following strong interest and participation in our Sunday discussion group over the summer, I've decided we'll continue it into the fall. We meet after worship in the fellowship hall for about 30 minutes to talk about the Scripture readings and how they connect to our daily lives. If you haven't had a chance yet, I encourage you to join us. Our discussions have been lively, insightful, and even humorous. **NOTE: We won't meet on September 8th due to Church Picnic.**

A Study of the Psalms - NEW on Wednesdays via ZOOM. Join us on **Wednesdays at 7:30pm -- starting September 4th** -- as we dive into the Old Testament Book of Psalms. In this 12-week study, we'll learn how to read and appreciate Hebrew poetry as God's inspired Word. We'll also learn about the different kinds of psalms (e.g. praise, confession, royal, lament) and how they express the wide spectrum of emotions we feel as followers of Christ living in a broken - but still beautiful - world. This Zoom study is open to all - look for the link that was emailed out this week, or ask Pastor. Invite your friends!

Impact High School Youth Ministry. Our first youth group meeting of the year will be on **Sunday, September 8th from 6:30-8:30pm** at St. Paul, Flemington. We are very excited to continue in our spiritual growth and have more opportunities for fellowship among high schoolers. We have a lot of big plans for this year and we hope you are as excited as we are. Our most notable change for this year will be Joey Dunbar, Ava Komorowski, and Sophia Fenco taking on leadership roles in the youth group and becoming responsible for organizing games and devotions among other things. We've given our group a new name - **Impact: NJ Youth Ministry.** We hope the changes we have planned will create more interest in the youth group and give the youth group more of a presence in the community.

Weekly Schedule:

MONDAY (9/2) Labor Day; Office Closed
WEDNESDAY (9/4) 7:30pm Zoom Bible Study of Psalms
SUNDAY (9/8) 8:15am Bible Study; 9:30am Worship; 11:00am Church Picnic;
6:30pm Impact Youth Ministry @ St. Paul, Flemington

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them!

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

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 8! Yes, our annual picnic will take place following the service on Sunday, September 8. Sign up to bring specific needs (see list on the bulletin board) or just bring a side dish or dessert. It promises to be lots of fun – hope to see you there!

Back-To-School Blessing for Teachers and Students. Join us on Sunday, September 8th during our 9:30 service for a special *Blessing of the Backpacks!* As the new school year gets under way, we invite all students, teachers, and school staff to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to be blessed. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for God's protection, guidance, and wisdom over all who are returning to school. Let's lift up our students and educators as they embark on another year of learning and growth!

New Jersey March for Life. With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, the cause of protecting the life of the unborn was sent back to the states and our elected representatives. On **Thursday, September 26** you can add your voice to this important issue by attending the New Jersey March for Life at the state capitol in Trenton. The event runs from 11:00am to around 1:00pm. Parking will be difficult, so participants are strongly encouraged to use public transportation. Those who wish to carpool with Pastor Jon should meet at 9:30am at the church. Please let him know if you're interested in attending!

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **September's collection is Breakfast** - cereal, pancake mix, syrup, cereal bars, pop tarts, etc

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: 8/25: 55/6 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4650
Flowers: \$25 Building: \$50

Website and Facebook. Come online to check us out! Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>.

Other Important web links:

NJ District LCMS

nidistrict.org

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

lcms.org

LCMS World Relief and human Care

lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast

lhm.org

DEUTERONOMY 4:9

You must
be very
careful not
to forget
the things
you have
seen
God
do for you.
Tell your
children
and your
children's
children



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . . .

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore,

having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:14–23

¹⁴[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Discussion Questions for God's Word Today

Which of the three readings or psalm did you find most thought-provoking?

What questions came up in your mind from today's readings or sermon?

What was your main takeaway from today's sermon?

What did you hear that was convicting or comforting?

What modern issues do you think today's Word touched on?

Which one of today's readings will you spend more time thinking, reading, praying, or studying about this week?