

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 19, 2026, 8:45am
FEAST of the FAITHFUL, Hymn Mass

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*\*Please stand as you are able; congregation responses in **BOLD***  
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WELCOME *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, Praise time*
+ What are you praising God for today? +

PRELUDE: "Legato in G" (from the Capriole Suite) -- Peter Warlock

The CHURCH'S GATHERING

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
living with us in love, peace, and joy,
whose compassion and faithfulness
are with us forever. **Amen**



We confess our sin to God, our guide and guardian.
Silence is kept for reflection. Compassionate God,
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot
free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy
and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In
Christ's name we pray, Amen**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and
Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN: # 689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"**

***GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

P: We gather on the Lord's Day to hear words of grace,
to be fed with love, and to go into the world
to work for Christ's justice and peace. **Amen**

The Christ of God is with you. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Faithful God, most merciful
judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your
Spirit nurture us who live in your realm that we may be rooted in the way of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a Hebrew Bible Narrative

*God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to
the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out*

of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv.20-22).

A: This is a reading from Genesis, the 28th chapter.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

We give our thanks to God.

SECOND READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel – and we – are redeemed.

A: This is a responsive reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 44th chapter.

Thus 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.**

Who 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.**

Do 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.**

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.
We give our thanks to God.

***WELCOMING the GOSPEL**

**God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.**

***HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world.
God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the
end of human history.*

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew,
the 13th chapter.

We give glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The realm of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And 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?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let 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.'"

Then 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." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Humanity; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the realm of heaven; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Humanity will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be

weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the realm of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

We give praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *Pastor Emily Ewing* *silence for reflection follows*

***HYMN of the DAY: # 693 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"**

***PROFESSION of FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED**

A: With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal 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 the PEOPLE

A: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury.

P: We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, St. Peter's Elementary School, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Fred, Joel, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen**

JESUS' SUPPER

PEACE

P: By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now,
thanks to Jesus Christ our Leader, we have peace with God.
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN

**Oh, what shall I render in thanks to my Lord
for all the good gifts by which I am restored?
No treasure I tender could ever repay
God's mercy and faithfulness, new every day.**

**My hands take the cup of salvation you give;
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,
with all of your people your goodness proclaim.**

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Christ of God is with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts in Spirit. **Our hearts rise up to God.**
We give honor and glory to the Holy One.
We give thanks and praise to ABBA God.

It is good to give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ, here and everywhere, now and always.
You plant the seed of your Word in us, and share with all the cup of joy.
And so, with saints and angels, the church on earth and in heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY**

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy,
God of pow'r and God of might:
Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

***THANKSGIVING at the TABLE for SUMMER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
when you created a world of peace and harmony,
**the plants and animals, the seas and stars,
and all your children celebrated their wholeness
and wellbeing under your care.**

When sin had scarred the world,
**you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.**

While his followers were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after
blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,
Take, eat; this is my body. Do this to remember me.
Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,
Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.

Remembering Jesus' acts of healing, his body given up,
and his victory over death,
**we wait for that day when all the nations of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
**as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the bread of life, your Son.**

All glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
through Christ Jesus, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Seeking God's will, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

***BREAKING the BREAD**

P: Bread is broken. **Love is shared.**

Sharing Communion *Please take time for meditation & prayer.*

HYMN during the Supper: # 465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen
and preserve us for life now and for the promised life to come. **Amen**

SPIRIT'S SENDING

SONG for MISSION

**Thank the Lord, your voices raise:
sing to God with highest praise!
Tell the wonders God has done:
freedom, life, the vict'ry won.
All who seek the Lord, rejoice;
proudly bear the name of Christ.
Go in joy where God will send.
Alleluia! Sing amen!**

PRAYER for MISSION

A: Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Compassionate God,
**through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the
abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy
meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We
ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now
and forever. Amen**

MISSION UPDATE: *upcoming opportunities for witness & learning*

***BLESSING**

P: Please stand as you are able to receive the benediction.

*Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God,
bless, heal, and hold us, today and always.*



***SENDING HYMN: # 679 "For the Fruit of All Creation"**

***SENT into MISSION**

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

We will Learn God's Truth.

We will Share Spirit's Healing.

We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen

P: We go in the peace of Christ

to love and serve all! **YES, we will!**

POSTLUDE: "Toccata in G" –J. Pachelbel

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Today's Sponsorships

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Thurley Gahs for her July 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Given by Bud Gahs and family.

In Loving Memory of my father, Bill May, for his July 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Given by his daughter, Ruth May.

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Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Carole Grimm's July 22nd birthday.
Given with best wishes from her cousin, Ruth May.

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Attendance for Sunday, July 12, 2026: 30

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Helping with today's worship:
Worship Assistant: Holly Vogt
Ushers: Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

Thank you to Pr. Emily Ewing for leading today's worship while Pr. Lans is away.

Rainforest Falls VBS is July 27th-30th from 6-8 pm. Registration is happening now! Forms are available through the church office or in the Narthex. Want to volunteer? Contact Karen Yelovich or Ashley Kane.

Sponsorships Needed: Altar flowers for 8/2 & 9 and bulletins for 8/30. Contact the church office to sponsor.

BRCA/Previvors Group: This is an off-shoot of Baltimore Cancer Support Group where previvors discuss navigating the ins and outs of receiving their cancer diagnosis. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. at St. Peter's. For more information, contact Geri (410-852-3688) or Molly (410-227-4692).

Christmas In July: Saturday, July 25 from 3-7 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Traditional spaghetti dinner and dancing to the music of the Monaldi Brothers family band. Admission is \$20/person and a new unwrapped toy. Please call 410-687-4621 for tickets, and note that there are steps to the parish hall.

The Chalice Circle: Thursday, August 6th at 6 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran Church Parlor (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). The Chalice Circle is a place where you can share life experiences, make deep and lasting connections and deepen your spirituality through shared practices. This is a small group experience and we would love to have you with us. If you would be interested in learning more about joining us, please contact Jennifer Simms at 443-386-8469 or jennifersimms1@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

Steak Shack Fundraiser: Wednesday, August 12th from 10 am. – 11 pm. at Steak Shack (1 East Joppa Road, Towson, 21286). Just mention Donation Day at the register or drive-thru at checkout and 25% of your total meal purchase will be donated to Christus Victor!

Spa Day Creations: Saturday, August 15 from 6-7pm at Zion (400 E. Lexington St., 21202). Take a break from the busy pace of life and treat yourself to an evening of creativity and relaxation! Join us for a hands-on Bath Salt Crafting Experience and Create your own custom bath salts using all-natural, skin-approved ingredients and design a unique blend that's perfect for you. No crafting experience is necessary—just bring your creativity! Learn a simple bath salt crafting technique, create your own unique blend, choose from a variety of colors. \$25 per person, space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

Crab Feast: Saturday, August 22nd from 2-6 pm. at Annapolis Evan. Lutheran (38 W. Central Ave., Edgewater, 21037). Get ready to pick some crabs while supporting the ongoing work of Lutheran Mission Society Compassion Place! Tickets are \$70 pre-purchased (\$75 at the door), \$25 for kids 9-13, and kids 8 and under are free. Call 410-636-0123 to order tickets and for more information.

Food Truck Nights: Wednesdays at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Continues weekly through August.

Brats & Beer: Fridays July 31st and August 28th from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202).

Secretary Position Available: Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others, and have good communication skills. Interested parties should call St. Matthew Lutheran Church office (410-335-4210).

St. Peter's Family Goods Center: If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

Give to St. Peter's On-line! Did you know that you can make offering donations and sponsorship payments on-line through PayPal?? Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School. When submitting your donation or payment, you can note what it's for. It's THAT easy!

News from St. Peter's Elementary School and PACE

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Open enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!

Summer Children's Programs & Vacation Bible Schools

Youth Drop-Ins: Mondays from 2-4 pm. (through August 3rd) at Epiphany Lutheran Church (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206, 410-485-7654). Do you know some youth (6-12th graders) in walking distance of Epiphany? Any youth 6th grade and up are welcome to stop by. We request no use of devices (they go in a bucket on the way in) and follow reasonable instructions of adults. Games, puzzles, ping pong, books will be available. Contact the church office with any questions!

Travel to Rome – Paul & the Underground Church VBS: July 27th-31st from 11 am. – 2 pm. Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-668-8080). For ages 4 and up. Lunch will be served.

Kids Summer Arts Camp: July 27th-August 7th (Monday-Friday) from 9 am.- 3 pm. St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-444-5171). For kids who've completed 1st-5th grades. Includes lunch & snacks, fun & creative activities, music making, dance & movement, making art, dinner & closing performance. Professional staff. Registration is \$250/student and is open now!