

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2026, 8:45am
FEAST of the FAITHFUL

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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, Our praises*
+ What are you praising God for today? +

PRELUDE: "Sing Praise to God the Highest Good" –M. Sedio

the CHURCH'S GATHERING

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen**



Confident that God justifies us by grace through Christ's faithfulness,
we confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to give witness to your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN: #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

***CALL to WORSHIP and PRAYER of the DAY**

P: Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, **and do what is right,**
for soon my salvation will come **and my deliverance revealed.**
For my house shall be called **a house of prayer for all peoples.**

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

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgments, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-15 Hebrew Bible Narrative

Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.

A: This is a reading from Exodus, the 16th chapter.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

We give our thanks to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel

and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

A: This is a reading from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi,
the 1st chapter.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

We give our thanks to God.

***WELCOMING the GOSPEL**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior;
open now your saving Word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred!
Alleluia! Lord, we sing
for the good news that you bring.**

***HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew,
the 20th chapter.

We give glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "The realm of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again

about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a silver coin. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a silver coin. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a day's wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

We give praise to you, O Christ.

***HYMN of the DAY: #655 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"**

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

ANTHEM: "Sing Forth, Rejoice" –J. Amner
Sung by Donna Metzger and Victor Tomecek

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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need.

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, George, Irma, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

JESUS' SUPPER

PEACE

P: Love does no wrong to a neighbor;

therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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

**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: Christ, the Seed and the Harvest, is with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts in Spirit. **We lift them to Father God.**
We give glory and honor to the holy Trinity.

It is good to give God our thanks and praise.

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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING at the TABLE for HARVEST**

P: The harvest has come; **the earth has produced enough for all.**
God's hands are open to provide us every blessing.

In gratefulness, we seek out the good of our neighbor.

Christ speaks through us to all peoples and nations:

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;

I am the bread of life.

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.

Merciful God, send your Spirit on us, that this bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

This bread is food for the journey

as we seek the new way of God's rule in the world.

Come among us, our Leader and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Hosanna, save us, with all your grace and mercy.

Through Christ all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,

both now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Seeking our daily bread, 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 at the Supper: #659

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

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

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, you heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

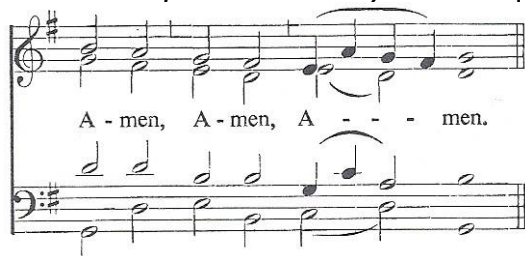
PRAYER for MISSION

A: Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Sustaining God,
**with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant
life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following
the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen**

MISSION UPDATE: *upcoming opportunities for witness & learning*

***BLESSING**

P: Please stand as you are able to receive the benediction.
*Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ ✠ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and | give you peace.*



***SENDING HYMN: #669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God"**

***SENT into MISSION**

A: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

We will Learn God's Truth.

We will Share Spirit's Healing.

We will Follow Jesus' Way.

P: Sharing the peace of Christ,
we will love and serve our neighbor!

Amen! YES, we will!

POSTLUDE: "Prelude in A-Major" -J.S. Bach

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

A beloved pastor and bishop, the Reverend Nelson Wesley Trout was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1921. He was known for being a bright scholar and a powerful preacher. After serving parishes in the American Lutheran Church in Alabama, Wisconsin, and California and serving as the executive director of Lutheran Social Services in Dayton, Ohio, Rev. Trout was called to teach and serve as the director of Minority Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. In 1983, Rev. Trout was elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the ALC, the first African American bishop in a major Lutheran church body. He served in that role until 1987, just prior to the formation of the ELCA. Bishop Trout died in 1996, having lived a historic life.

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Today's Sponsorships

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

In Honor of Dustin Tanasescu's birthday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

In Celebration of my birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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

In Loving Memory of Lorraine' Volz's September 23rd birthday.
Given by the Volz family.

In Honor of our granddaughter,
Alaina Mills' 2nd birthday, September 24th.
Given with love by LaLa and Pop (Donna and Joe Mills).

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Attendance for Sunday, September 13, 2026: 33

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Helping with today's worship:
Assisting Minister: Heather Frederick
Usher: Don Bayne

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

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

Come and See! You are invited to visit the beautiful mural, painted by Ms. Emily Potter, in the Conference Center outside of Mr. Brown's classroom. Ms. Potter is Mr. Brown's fiancé.

St. Peter's Pet Blessing Sunday is October 4th between services. Pets are invited, as long as they behave. Pictures of pets can also be brought. We will gather on the front lawn, weather permitting.

Annual Crab Feast: Saturday, September 26th from 2-5pm. at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Cost \$50 (or \$35 with no crabs). Menu: Steamed crabs, crab soup, pit beef, pit turkey, potato salad, macaroni salad, tomato & cucumber salad, baked beans, cole slaw, deviled eggs, Caesar salad, soda, iced tea & lemonade. BYOB. Music, quilt raffle, door prizes. Tickets on sale: August 30-September 20. Call 410-668-8089 to reserve your tickets.

Gift Card Bingo: Saturday, September 26th from 2-6 pm. (Doors open at 1:30 pm.) at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Admission is \$20 and includes 20 games of bingo and a Jackpot cash prize. Additional bingo cards and refreshments will be available for purchase. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Contact the church office at 410-687-4621 for tickets and more information.

Vendor Members Group: Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30am.-2:30 pm. at Grace Lutheran (8601 Valleyfield Rd., Lutherville 21093). Free admission. Juried art and craft vendors, tasty food, affordable gifts.

Oktoberfest: Saturday, October 3rd from 1-5 pm. at First English (3807 N. Charles St., 21218). \$25 (13+), \$5 (ages 5-12), free (under 5). Call 410-235-2356. Reservations required by 9/30 at 5:30 pm.

13th Annual Car Show: Sunday, October 4th from 10am-2:30pm (rain date 10/18) at Joppatowne Shopping Plaza (1006 Joppa Farm Rd. & Pulaski Hwy.). Baltimore Cancer Support Group invites you to a fun-filled afternoon for car buffs! Entry donation is \$20 with registration from 10am-12pm the day of the event. Food and concessions by Towne Grille & Pub, 50/50, raffles, and door prizes.

Designer Bag & Gift Card Bingo: Sunday, October 4th (doors open at 12 pm., games begin at 1 pm.) at Epiphany Lutheran Church (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Prizes include bags, gift cards, raffles, specials, 50/50! \$25/person. Lunch and snacks available for purchase. Call 410-485-7654 for tickets.

A Golden Hour of Melodies: Saturday, October 10th from 4-5 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran Church (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Enjoy a private concert of singer/songwriter favorites by our talented music director, Tate Armstrong. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the church's music fund.

Crab Feast: Sunday, October 11th from 1-4 pm. at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Tickets are \$65 in advance (\$75 at the door), contact the office at 410-444-5171 to reserve. Menu includes: crabs from Parkville Crab, salads, fried chicken, dessert, and soft beverages (BYO adult beverage). There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

Fall Dance: Saturday, November 7th from 6-10 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran Church (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Due to popular demand, Epiphany will host a Fall Dance featuring "Sound Storm" a dynamic band playing your favorite Motown, R&B, rock and funk hits. Tickets are \$25. Attendees should be 21 and over and are welcome to bring their own bottle or food. Reserve your tickets early! Contact Amber at 443-579-5191.

Merry & Bright Vendor & Craft Fair: Saturday, November 14th from 9 am.-2 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). This great event features the Yuletide Tree Jubilee, where you can take a chance to win your favorite decorated tree! For more information contact the church office at 410-687-4621.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 21st at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Vendors needed – contact Linda Cruzs at 443-500-7549 or email lindadrugs116@gmail.com. Vendor spaces are \$20 each and include a 6' table.

Ann's Toy Closet Cookie Walk: Saturday, November 28th from 9 am.-2 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Stroll through tables of delicious cookies, fill a container full and take home to enjoy!

34th Annual Bull Roast Fundraiser for Baltimore Cancer Support Group is Saturday, November 7th from 7:30pm-midnight at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased though PayPal. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Geri Booker (410-852-3688) or Karen Haughey (410-960-1148).

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 21st from 9am-2pm at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Vendors and crafters wanted! \$20 for 6' table. Space is limited. Email LindaGruzs116@gmail.com or call 443-500-7549.

St. Peter's Family Goods Center: We are just about ready to restock the FGC! Repairs from the flood damage are almost complete. 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. 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!

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).

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. Enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!