

Sunday, November 9, 2025
Lectionary 32, Year C
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living..

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

November 9, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

David Binkley, Paige Pavlishin, Gerry Leonard

Reader:

Stephanie Ponnett

PRELUDE: Morning Has Broken *by Robert Clark Lau*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: Largo *by George Frederick Handel*

GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

Forgive us, when in our full and busy days we fail to share your love and grace with those around us.

Forgive us, when we fail to focus on the person speaking to us.

Forgive us, when we pass a neighbor and do not acknowledge them.

Forgive us, when the bounty you have given us, we fail to share with those in need.

Forgive us and guide us Lord, as we continue to live and grow into the people you formed us to be. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,
God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 636 How Small Our Span of Life

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

KYRIE: ELW Setting 3, pg 138

CANTICLE: This is the Feast ELW Setting 3, p 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God, our eternal redeemer, by the
presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always
in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us
for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Job 19:23-27a

Job suffers the loss of children, wealth, and health. Accused by his companions of wrongdoing, he knows himself to be innocent. Here, in the midst of his suffering, Job clings to the radical hope that his vindicator, his redeemer, lives; and that one day he himself will see God.

²³ “O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

²⁵ For I know that my vindicator lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;

²⁶ and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,

^{27a} whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 17:1-9

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings. (Ps. 17:8)

¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed ¹ to my cry;
listen to my prayer, which does not come from ¹ lying lips.

² **Let my vindication come forth ¹ from your presence;
let your eyes be ¹ fixed on justice.**

³ Examine my heart, visit ¹ me by night,
melt me down; you will find no impuri- ¹ ty in me.

⁴ **I have not regarded what ¹ others do;
at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways ¹ of the violent.**

⁵ My footsteps hold fast to your ¹ well-worn path;
and my feet ¹ do not slip.

⁶ **I call upon you, O God, for you will ¹ answer me;
incline your ear to me and ¹ hear my words.**

⁷ Show me your marvelous ¹ lovingkindness,
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from
those who ¹ rise against them.

⁸ **Keep me as the apple ¹ of your eye;
hide me under the shadow ¹ of your wings,**

⁹ from the wicked ¹ who assault me,
from my deadly enemies ¹ who surround me.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above

every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

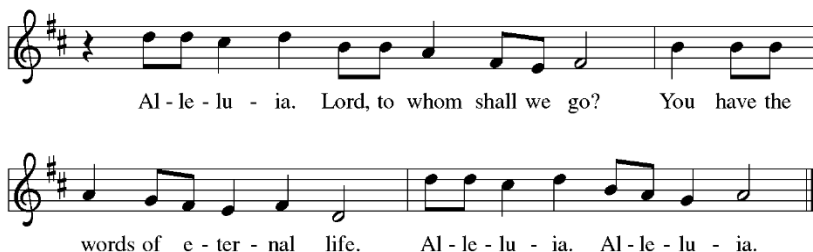
¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION setting 3 p142

Please stand as you are able.



The Gospel according to Luke the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] ²⁸ and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the

same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now it is God not of the dead but of the living, for to God all of them are alive.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH TALK

SERMON: Alive in Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 619 I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *We will say the response together.*
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING: ELW 824 This Is My Father's World

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ:
our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit
with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope;
the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW Setting 3 pg 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the
remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all
to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for
you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the
remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Ushers will bring you forward. The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it.

COMMUNION SONGS:

ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 474 Bread of Life from Heaven

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SEND

BLESSING:

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

SENDING: ELW 638 Blessed Assurance

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Be church together. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: Now Thank We All Our God *by Wilbur Held*

**The altar flowers are dedicated in loving memory and in honor
of all Veterans by Sharon Beard.**

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*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original
and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for
their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor
all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this place their home.*

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this
month: Dianne Briener, Debbie Goodling, Gary Fichthorn, James
Speeden, Jaiden Mullins, Josie Brewster, Neal Kresge, Ruth
Shireman, Jimmy & Cece Abromitis, Larry Lingle Jr., Richard Brandt,
Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Betty Wise, Jim White, Lynda Fitzpatrick
Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Jenny
Dimeler, Marie Fox, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, Charles
Brooks, Mitchell Hahn, Karen Eckles, Barbara Henry, Emily Booth,
Lucinda Sheaffer.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Justin Polito, Corbin Stetler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane
Mondeaux, Anthony Mondeaux, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton
Stone, Aaron Williams

**Breakfast Church and the congregational meeting will be held
in Luther Hall next Sunday, November 16, 2025.**

Community meal needs turkeys for our Thanksgiving meal
being served on November 25th. If you have bonus points for a
turkey and will not be able to use it, we would be happy to put it to
good use! Reach out to Shannon or Pr. Molly if you can help us out.

Craft Fair and Vendor show Saturday November 15 9am-1pm

There will be a fall craft and vendor show in Luther Hall. Come start your holiday shopping and support local vendors!

Volunteers are needed for Meals On Wheels in December.

Please see JoAnn Skovira or call 717-939-2525 to sign up.

Advent Day Apart: Saturday December 6, 2025 9am-2pm

at The Wittle Farm. All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation for the birth of the Christ Child. There is a \$15 registration fee. Lunch will be provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit www.LutheranCamping.org to register by November 28.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help us host Family promise this past week. We came together with First Church of God, Messiah Lutheran and Brookfield Bible Church to meet the needs of the family while they were here. We are grateful for the collaboration with other congregations as we all serve our community.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – noon. Monday – Thursday

Enter through the Community Center doors

Phone Number: (717) 944-4651

Web site: www.stpetersmiddletown.org

E-mail address: ParishMail@stpetersmiddletown.org

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Facebook livestream: St Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown

