

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Lectionary 16, Year C
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

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

July 20, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Bennett Williams, Gerry Leonard,

Amy, Avery & Wren Heckman

Reader:

Don Hossler

PRELUDE: As the Deer *by Maranatha Music*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: Indescribable *by Chris Tomlin*

GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

We gather together as God's people, grateful for all that is created.

We celebrate the Good News of Jesus' love for all.

We welcome the guidance of the spirit to lead us towards grace, forgiveness and love.

Amen.

Let us take time to let go of the things we have done wrong, to open our minds to God's way in the world and apologize to our neighbors for what we have not yet done on their behalf.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ

and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: All Are Welcome ELW 641 v1-3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a}Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 25 Higher Than the Mountains (*will be sung*)

To You oh Lord I lift up my soul, in You I trust oh Lord
To You oh Lord I lift up my soul, in You I trust oh Lord

Higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea
Wider than the ocean is Your love for me
You're with me in the mountains and the valley below
You're right here beside me everywhere that I go

I get down, He lifts me up
I get down, He lifts me up
I get down, He lifts me up
I get down!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Be Thou My Vision ELW 793 v1-2

The Gospel according to Luke the tenth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

YOUTH TALK with Elizabeth Testa & Avery Heckman
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Listen, God Is Calling ELW 513 v 1-2

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

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: How Great Is Our God *by Chris Tomlin*

VERSE 1

The splendor of the King Clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light and darkness tries to hide

It trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice

CHORUS

How great is our God, sing with me

How great is our God and all will see

How great, how great is our God

TRADITIONAL

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, How great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, How great Thou art

OFFERING PRAYER:

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.

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.

Body of Christ given for you.

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.

Blood of Christ shed for you.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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:

Give Me Jesus ELW 770

Jesus! Lamb Of God (*Confirmation Camp*)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SEND

BLESSING:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

SENDING SONG: All My Fountains *by Travis Cottrell*

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: You Are So Good To Me *by Third Day*

**The altar flowers and bulletins are dedicated in honor of the 65th
wedding anniversary of Mary & Larry Lingle, in memory of
Dottie Willenbecher by her family and in memory of Jim Swartz
by Nancy & family.**

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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

If you are available and able, please stay after worship to help us set up the tables and chairs in Luther Hall.

Holy Huddle will be held Sunday, July 20th following Worship Service at Bruno's at 101 East Main Street. Join us for fellowship as we discuss Choosing what is better, Mary or Matha.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this month: Linda Carpen, Vicki Mitchell, Marie Fox, Barbara Henry, Betty Wise, Jenny Dimeler, Jim White, Lynda Fitzpatrick

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Rig Boyer, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, Charles Brooks, Mitchell Hahn, Mary Houser, Karen Eckles, Barbara Henry, Emily Booth, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell.

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

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

Volunteers are needed to help unload the MidWest Food bank items every other Tuesday through the summer. Volunteers meet at the church at 11:45am to help unload the boxes of food out of the vehicles and into the church. If you are available any of the following Tuesdays, we would appreciate your help! July 22, August 12 & 26.

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