

Sunday, August 10, 2025
Lectionary 19, Year C
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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

August 10, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

Stephanie Ponnett

PRELUDE: Tell Your Heart to Beat Again *by Danny Gokey*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: I Choose Love *by Mark A. Miller*

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: Morning Has Broken ELW 556 v1-3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 (*spoken*)

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

¹² Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is the Lord!

Happy the people chosen to ¹ be God's heritage!

¹³ **The Lord looks ¹ down from heaven,
and sees all ¹ humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly en- ¹ throned and watches
all who dwell ¹ on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions ¹ all their hearts
and observes ¹ all their deeds. R**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size ¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain ¹ hope for victory;**

despite its great strength it ¹ cannot save.

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear ¹ you, O Lord,
upon those who wait for your ¹ steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their ¹ lives from death,
and to keep them alive in ¹ time of famine. R**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for ¹ you, O Lord,
our helper ¹ and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- ¹ es in you,
for in your holy name we ¹ put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, ¹ be upon us,
even as we place our ¹ hope in you. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If

they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Calling All Angels *by Train*

And I'm calling all angels
And I'm calling all you angels
And I won't give up
if you don't give up
I won't give up if you don't give up
I won't give up if you don't give up
I won't give up if you don't give up

The Gospel according to Luke the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what

hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579 v1-3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles’ Creed together:

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: Sanctuary *by Scruggs & Thompson*

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

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 SONG: Way Maker *by Leeland*

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

Verse 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Tag

That is who You are That is who You are

Bridge

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

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: Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises ELW 535 v1-2

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

POSTLUDE: One Tin Soldier *by Dennis Lambert & Brain Potter*

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving
memory of Amy Porr on her birthday by Carol "Porr" and in
memory of Edward Willenbecher by his 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this month: Mary Houser, Richard Brant, Chad Schatz, Alex Norden-Mabee, Sue Stitler, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, 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, 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! August 12 & 26.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits St. Peter's is participating in providing health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We have all the items needed and have assembled the kits! We would appreciate any donations to help with the shipping costs associated with mailing them. See Sharon Beard if you would like to donate to this cause.

Food Pantry Donation Day will be the first Sunday and first Wednesday of the month. If you are able, please bring pantry items to donate to the food pantry. Items can be canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup or hygiene items. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope Academy PA is so excited for the start of our 3rd year! We are offering a 2-day morning class (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-11:30am) for children turning 3 by 12/31/25, a 3-day class (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9am-11:30) and a pre-Kindergarten class Monday-Friday, 9:15am-1:15pm. **We have scholarships and**

financial aid still available and space available in each of the 3 classes. Please help us spread the word and register at www.wearehopeacademy.org.

ALSO, we still have space in our **WORLD EXPLORERS** summer camp, August 18-22, 9am-12pm for ages 3-6 (children must be potty-trained). Cost is \$150 for the week and snack is provided. This is open to any child and we will “visit” another country every day, do cool experiments and learn Spanish along the way! Contact Jen Graf at jen@t4hope.org to register.

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

