

Sunday, November 23, 2025
Christ the King
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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 23, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Dan Allegar, Amy, Wren & Avery Heckman,
Gerry Leonard, Bennett Williams

Reader: Don Hossler

PRELUDE: Blessed Be Your Name *by Matt Redman*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: Dan Allegar *selection*

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, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.**

We ignore our neighbors.

We exploit the earth.

We reject your abundance,

trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.

Repair our relationships,

**restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.**

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God the Faithful One loves you,

✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Jesus Shall Reign ELW 434 v 1, 2, 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

PSALM: Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted ¹ in
the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers

or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Give Thanks

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His Name. (Repeat)

The Gospel according to Luke the twenty third chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

YOUTH TALK SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lift High the Cross ELW 660 v 1, 2, 3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

APOSTLES' CREED *(will be spoken)*

**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: Jesus! Lover of My Soul *by Hillsong Worship*

Jesus! Lover of my soul, Jesus! I'll never let You go
You've taken me – from the miry clay
Set my feet upon the rock, now I know
I love You, I need You, though my world may fall
I'll never let You go
My Savior, my closest friend,
I will worship You until the very end.

OFFERING PRAYER: God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.

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 *(will be spoken)*

**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: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

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: You Are So Good To Me *by Third Day*
(VERSE 1)

You are so good to me, You heal my broken heart
You are my Father in Heaven
You are so good to me, You heal my broken heart
You are my Father in Heaven

(VERSE 2)

You ride upon the clouds, You lead me to the truth
You are the Spirit inside me
You ride upon the clouds, You lead me to the truth
You are the Spirit inside me

(CHORUS)

You are beautiful my sweet, sweet song
You are beautiful my sweet, sweet song

You are beautiful my sweet, sweet song
And I will sing again

(BRIDGE)

You are my strong melody, yeah
You are my dancing rhythm
You are my perfect rhyme
I will sing of You forever

(VERSE 3)

You poured out all Your blood, You died upon the cross
You are my Jesus who loves me
You poured out all Your blood, You died upon the cross
You are my Jesus who loves me, yeah

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: God of field and flower,
wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.
Amen.

SEND

BLESSING: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✚
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

SENDING SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855 v 1-3

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Your Grace Is Enough *by Matt Maher*

The altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Florence Stoops by The Stoops Family and to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert L. Porr, Sr. on his birthday and Elie Porr on her birthday by Carol Porr.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Printed with permission from One License A-72871

Church Copyright License®

21960089 Size A

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: Nolan Smith, Debbie Goodling, Gary Fichthorn, James Speeden, Jaiden Mullins, Josie Brewster, Ruth Shireman, Jimmy & Cece Abromitis, Lynda Fitzpatrick **Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:** Richard Brandt, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Betty Wise, Jim White, 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

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

Giving Tree

We will continue our tradition of giving gifts to families in need this Christmas. Paper ornaments with the age, gender and wish list have been hung on the Giving Tree in the north narthex. If you are interested, pick a tag, shop for the items then wrap them and attach the tag to the wrapped gifts. Place them under the Giving Tree by December 7th. For questions, contact Shannon Kelly at the church office.

Mitten Tree

Each year, we help spread a little warmth to the children and families in Middletown through our Mitten Tree. Please bring in new or handmade hats and mittens for all ages and place them on the tree in the north narthex beginning November 16th. These items will be collected until December 14th.

Middletown Tree Lighting Event

On November 29th from 5-7pm, there will be a tree lighting at the Kierch. At 7:30 pm The Community Band will lead a Carol Sing in the Kierch. Free pizza and soup will be offered by TOGETHER youth.

Volunteers are needed for Meals On Wheels in December.

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

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

