

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 5th, 2024  
Holy Communion 10 am



### Introduction

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

***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**

**May 5th, 2024**

**Preaching & presiding:**

Pr. Elaine Dent

**Musicians:**

Spirit & Truth

**Reader:**

Daniel Kemper

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MEDITATION:** Live Like That *by Sidewalk Prophets*

### **GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

### **EASTER LITANY**

Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed!**

Praise the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**God gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

He has claimed us as his own.

**He called us from our darkness into the light of his new day.**

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

# GATHERING: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367 v 1, 2 & 3

## KYRIE v 1 & 2

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises,

which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 10: 44-48**

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 98**

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

**<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments. And God's commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia ELW 174**

*Please stand as you are able.*

The Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you O, Lord**

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my God's commandments and

abide in this love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my God. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **YOUNG WORSHIPPERS’ MESSAGE SERMON**

**HOD: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love** ELW 708 v 1, 2 & 3

*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.**

### **+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We will say the response together.*

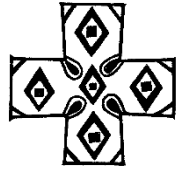
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

**C: and also with you**

P: share that peace with one another



**OFFERING: Get Together** *by the Youngbloods*

**Come on, people now**

**Smile on each other**

**Everybody get together**

**Try to love one another right now**

**I said come on, people now**

**Smile on each other**

**Everybody get together**

**Try to love one another right now**

**Right now**

**Right now**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**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...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS: ELW setting 3 page 144**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## 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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*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. An Acolyte will collect the empty cup. You can go to the rail for a silent prayer or return to your seat.*

## COMMUNION SONGS

**Beautiful Savior** ELW 838

**Give Love** by *Andy Grammer*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

*Standing is optional.*

**SENDING: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee** ELW 836



**DISMISSAL:**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Trumpet Sounds**

**The lamp candle is dedicated to Mr. & Mrs. H. Russell Kleinfelter by Bill & Barb Kleinfelter.**

**The altar flowers are dedicated to loved ones by Ray Thompson.**

**The bulletins are dedicated in honor of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage month. The multitude of ethnicities, languages, and experiences have enriched America and strengthened out union as a UNITED states of America. All Americans need to help prevent bias and harassment of all persons. Hatred should have no safe harbor in America.**

**Dedicated by Gail and Don Hossler.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

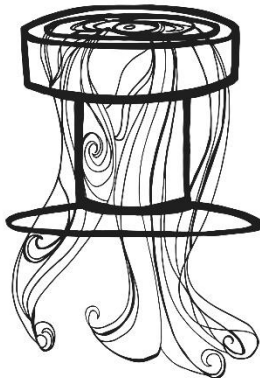
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*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous 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: Cheryl Schlum, Anthony Mondeaux, Emily Eckert, Molly Wise, Barbara Henry, Nevin Lingle, Steve & Olivia Waite, Emily Booth, Josie Brewster, Thelma Thomas, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, and Mary Houser.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Kate Haggerty, Dorothy Murphy, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, Regina Heagy, Jim Hurst, Tina Polito, Doris Arnold, and Richard Brandt.

**Our prayers and the comfort of the Christian faith are extended to the friends and family of Beverly Bailey, who has passed away in recent days. Her celebration of life will be held here at St. Peter's at 11am in the sanctuary.**

## **\*\*SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES\*\***

Corbin Stettler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

## **MEALS ON WHEELS**

St. Peters delivers MOW in June. There are 20 delivery days (Monday through Friday). St. Peters has 10 days remaining to fill. If you can drive or deliver MOW several of those days, please call Gail Hossler at 717-944-2250 to sign up or learn more about the experience. Thank you.

## **COMMUNITY REQUEST**

A member of our community has requested the following items: 2 twin mattresses & twin mattress protectors, and a microwave. If you can donate any of these items, please email Jen:

[JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org](mailto:JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org)

## **HOPE ACADEMY NEW EXPLORERS**

Hope Academy PA Preschool at St. Peter's Middletown is enrolling new explorers for the '24/'25 school year and we need YOUR help to

spread the word! Please share with anyone you know who has preschool aged children or works with families. Thanks to many generous donors, we have a scholarship program and are anxious to help as many children as possible have a quality preschool education! Email [jen@t4hope.org](mailto:jen@t4hope.org) for more information and follow us on Facebook at Hope Academy PA!

## **SUMMER FUN DONATIONS**

Instead of throwing away your brown paper bags and brown packing paper, please donate it to the TOGETHER summer fun program for a project. Please have all donations in by May 20<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall!

## **FAMILY PROMISE**

We will host families here at the church Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>-Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to volunteer to drive, entertain, or cook, please let Molly know!

## **GARDENING HELP**

Spring has sprung! It is time to do some light weeding and general yardwork here at church. If you are interested in helping, please see Molly or Sharon!

## **TOGETHER CLEANUP & SETUP**

Please come help organize the supplies and prepare for Summer Fun on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. We will be creating backdrops, organizing cabinets, and cleaning. Please let Alex know if you can come! Alex: 832-752-6833

## **COMMUNITY DINNER**

Please join the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Middletown (157 E. Water Street) for their community dinner on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-6:00pm or until sold out. You may dine in or take out! The menu includes baked chicken, cheesy potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert. St. Peter's is happy to have shared our chicken & potato recipes with UM Middletown. No need to call ahead. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. Questions? Call: 717-944-6181