

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 9th, 2024
Holy Communion 10 am**



Introduction

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

***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 **June 9th, 2024**

Preaching & presiding: Pr. Molly Haggerty
Musicians: Joseph Harkins & Gerry Leonard
Reader: Don Hossler

PRELUDE: *Haydn*, Adagio from Sonata in C major Hob:21

Today we recognize and celebrate the ordination of Pastor Molly Haggerty. While she was ordained on June 7, 2019, her contributions to ministry span much longer. For the past 20+ years, Pastor Molly has served the church in many capacities, from Sunday School teacher to youth leader, deacon, and pastor. We celebrate her unique vision for ministry and her love and care for all people, within our congregation and beyond.

Pastor Molly, you are a blessing to our congregation!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION: *Chopin*, Prelude in A major

GATHERING

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

GATHERING: God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705 v
1, 2 & 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

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

PSALM: Psalm 130

We will read the Psalm responsively.

Wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love. (Ps. 130:7)

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of
my supplication.**

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep
watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there
is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

*Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home
God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might
bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God
promises to bring us into eternal life.*

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance
with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe,
and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised
the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us
with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so
that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase
thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

Please stand as you are able.

ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel according to St. Mark, the third chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom

cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong person's house and plunder their property without first tying up the strong person; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “They have an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my sibling and parent.”

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

YOUNG WORSHIPPERS' MESSAGE SERMON

HOD: A MIGHTY FORTRESS ELW 504 v 1, 2 & 3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together after each petition.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Please stand as you are able. We will say the Creed together.

CREED: 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: Let us give each other that sign of peace.



OFFERING: We Are an Offering ELW 692

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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

We will say the Lord's Prayer together.

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come! *All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table, and all are welcome. An usher will escort each row forward. White grape juice can be located in the center of the tray. Please indicate to an usher if you would like to commune from your seat.*

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God ELW 195

When Peace Like a River ELW 785



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

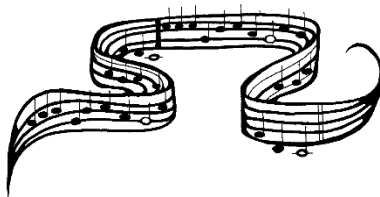
SENDING: Go My Children, With My Blessing ELW 543

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Let the Spirit lead you. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Mozart*, Menuetto I and II from Sonata in Eb major K.282



The bulletins are dedicated in memory of Kathryn Madara
by Nancy Swartz.

The altar flowers are dedicated to Mr. & Mrs. Ben
Hammond Jr. by Becky & Marianne.

The lamp candle is dedicated in memory of Florence
Lingle by Larry & Mary Lingle.

MESSAGE FROM MAIC

As the food scarcity increases and our Food Pantry clients increase, we need to increase the number of our volunteer staff. Please lend any help that you can in order to send this message out to the members of your faith communities and others (or yourself) that may be able to lend a helping hand.

We have a very dedicated staff that will continue on at the Middletown Food Pantry, but we must lighten everyone's tasks by having more hands on deck.

In particular, a **Volunteer Coordinator** is truly needed to assist our director, Betsy Mauger, in organizing and expanding the volunteer membership. Please direct anyone interested in assisting in this way to contact either Marianne or Betsy Mauger for more details.

Marianne Moore - Secretary MAIC- 717-329-3892

Betsy Mauger- Director, Middletown Area Food Pantry -717-944-5668

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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, Barbara Henry, Nevin Lingle, Steve & Olivia Waite, Emily Booth, Josie Brewster, 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, Thelma Thomas, and Richard Brandt.

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

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

RIDES NEEDED

A member of our congregation is in need of a ride to church for June 30th, July 14th, July 21st, and July 28th. Please let Sharon or Molly know if you can drive them to church on any of these dates!

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. Email jen@t4hope.org for more information and follow us on Facebook at Hope Academy PA!

SUMMER FUN SCHEDULE

The TOGETHER YOUTH is offering their Summer Fun program again this summer from June 10th- August 2nd! The program is geared towards all ages. Children 0-7 should be accompanied by an adult and 8-18 are free to drop in. Summer Fun takes place Monday-Friday from 10:30am- 1pm. Lunch is provided by the Middletown Area School District. The Middletown Library will provide the performers every Wednesday! See Alex for more information.