

*Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17th, 2023*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Losing* by *Tenth Avenue North*

THE GATHERING

**Please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the + triune God, who loves us into being, calls us to community, and inspires us to love.

Amen.

Confronted by the law and called to life in the gospel, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of love and community, **we confess that we have not loved as God has loved us. We look to ourselves to fulfill your law. We seek to satisfy our own desires. We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone. Teach us again your statutes and help us to love your will, that in and through us your beloved community is made known.**

Beloved of God, love is the fulfillment of the law, and in + Jesus, God's love for you is made known. Through Jesus your sins are forgiven, and you are drawn into God's love and life. Live fully, knowing that God loves you. **Amen.**

KYRIE


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,



Refrain

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

GATHERING HYMN:

"God's Work Our Hands"

verses 1, 2 & 3

**God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**



**God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Please be seated*

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will

require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM: Psalm 119: 33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.**



SECOND READING: Romans 13: 8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and

jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: One Love *by Bob Marley*

P. This is the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 15-20

¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P. The gospel of our Lord.

C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Chad Butz

APOSTLE'S CREED: We Believe *by the Newsboys*

We believe in God the Father

We believe in Jesus Christ

We believe in the Holy Spirit

And He's given us new life

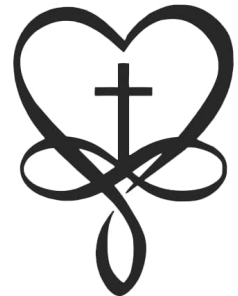
We believe in the crucifixion

We believe that He conquered death

We believe in the resurrection

And He's comin' back again

We believe



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick (especially Ashley Rager, Alice Hoover, Bob Wertz, Bruce Baldwin, Jack Etter, Don Alsedek, Barb Hawkins, Jeff Myers, Aaliyah Pisle, Gloria Watkins, Esther and Warren Nelson, Duck Harris, Carl and Anna Zeiders, Kenny Price, Spike Spilker, Daryl Wyn, Thelma Thomas, Geraldine Reider, Jessica Brenizer, Harold Bolton, Lynette Stough and Dorthy Murphy, Thelma Thomas, Jessica Brenizer, Harold Bolton, Dorthy Murphy. Erma Grim, Doris Arnold, Regina Heagy, Marjorie Peiffer, Jim Hurst, Lucinda Sheaffer, Mary Houser, Ryhan Lopatic, Lenda Evans, Don Cappetta, Ben Chappell, and Richard Brandt). Guard their waking and their sleeping.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment (especially). In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith (especially). May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING SONG: *Greater by MercyMe*

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

THE 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.

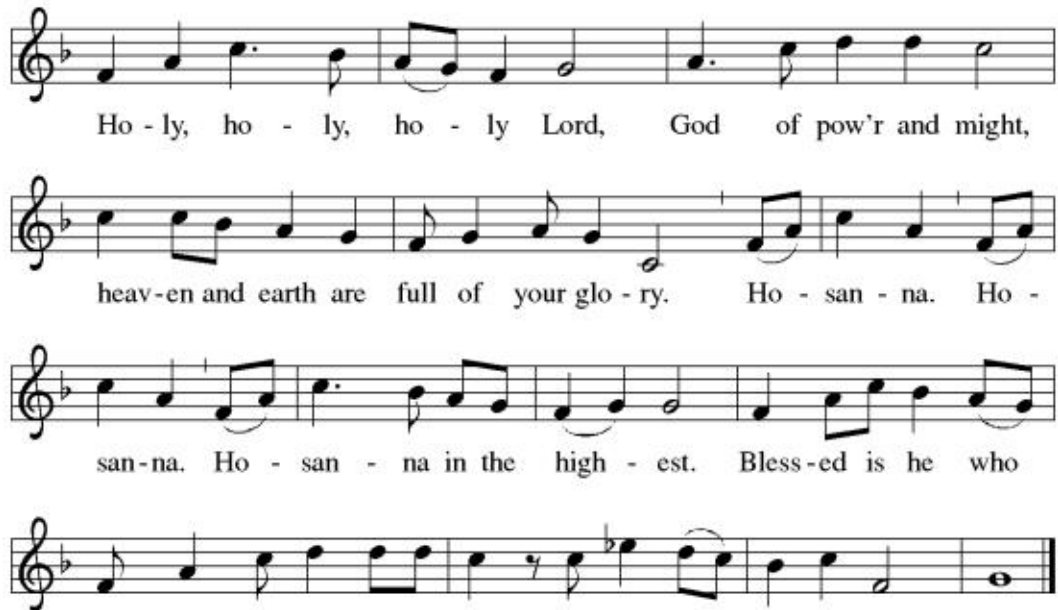
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.
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.



We will say the Lord's Prayer together.

THE 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.

SHARING OF THE MEAL

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. **Amen.**

**Please be seated for distribution of communion*

COMMUNION SONGS:

Gratitude by *Brendon Lake*

Follow You by *Ben Rector*

**Please stand as you are able.*

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you in God's Grace **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: Take My Life ELW 583 verses 1, 2 & 3

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Holy Spirit by *Francesca Battistelli*

I Saw the Light/ I'll Fly Away



News & Happenings
Renewed in Grace Ministries

Sacred Places Transitioning Seminar

Thank you to Matt Hunt and Pat Hawkins for agreeing to attend United Lutheran Seminary's Seminar on *Sacred Places Transitioning*. For those of you who are unaware, we were nominated by our Synod to attend this seminar for free on September 29th and 30th. We will be discussing our current situation as *Renewed in Grace* with other congregations in similar circumstances to see how we are and can be using the gifts given to us by God in unique and innovative ways.

Family Promise

St. Peter, Middletown, will be hosting residents of *Family Promise* from Oct. 1 – 8. They will feed evening meals, provide sleeping accommodations, and drive the participants back to *Family Promise* each morning so they can attend classes and/or jobs. If you are able to help with food or transportation, please talk to Pastor Butz. THANKS!

Blessing of the COLLARS and PET ITEMS on Sunday, Oct. 8

Instead of the annual blessing of our pets, Pastor will be doing a blessing of their collars! (or any of your pets' much-loved items) On Sunday, Oct. 8, you are asked to bring your pets' items to the church service during which he will offer the blessing!



Laundry Love (2nd Thur. of every month)

June 2023 – 7 people served, 30 loads

July 2023 – 29 people served, 98 loads

August 2023 – 25 people served, 120 loads

Monday Night Meals at St. Peter's (5:30 – 6:30)

Aug. 21	109 meals	26 non-food assists	9 clothing assists
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Aug. 28	180	25	7
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Thursday Night Meals at Trinity (5:30 – 6:30)

Aug. 17	99 meals
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Aug. 24	70 meals
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Non-Food Assistance Needed

We continue to need items for our outreach on both Monday and Thursday nights.

Donations of the following may be dropped off in either social hall:

shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap bars, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, 4-pack of toilet paper, boxes of tissues, paper towels, small packs of napkins, small packs of paper plates, plastic utensils, small boxes of trash bags, dishwashing liquid, sponges, small boxes of sandwich bags, and anything else you can think of that someone might need. THANKS IN ADVANCE!

Shut-ins and Those in Need of Prayers and Cards

Members in care facilities:

Barbara Hawkins Claremont Nursing Center, 1000 Claremont Rd., Carlisle 17013

Warren & Esther Nelson Columbia Cottage, Rooms 45 & 48, 103 N. Larkspur Dr., Palmyra 17078

Doris Miller Middletown Home, 999 W. Hbg. Pike, Middletown 17057

Ben Whittington Harmony at Hershey, 75 E. Canal St., Apt. 232, Hershey 17033

John Brunner 600 Masonic Dr., Elizabethtown 17022

Bob Wertz Artis Senior Living, 150 N. 12th St., Lemoyne 17043

Evelyn Hippensteel Oak Hill Village, Rm. 113 (door), 1020 N. Union St., Middletown 17057



Shut-ins:

Joyce Stickle, Jacqueline Acri, Joan Hogentogler, Ann Kline, Geraldine Reider, Andy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Rose Hoover, Lynette Stough, Jeff Myers, Leslie & Lisa Lisnitzer



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown and Renewed in Grace Ministries are 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 land their home.

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Thelma Thomas, Jessica Brenizer, Harold Bolton, Dorthy Murphy, Erma Grim, Doris Arnold, Regina Heagy, Marjorie Peiffer, Jim Hurst, Lucinda Sheaffer, Mary Houser, Ryhan Lopatic, Lenda Evans, Don Cappetta, Ben Chappell, and Richard Brandt.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Karen Ainsley, Fred Harris, Ida Kramer, Anna Raffensburger, Betty Wise, Stephanie Kastelik, Diana Arnold, Mae Stum, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, and Tina Polito.

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

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, Hunter Magaro, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

TOGETHER AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



The TOGETHER after-school program began Monday, August 28th! The program will run Monday through Friday from 3:15-5:30pm. Parents or guardians who wish to sign their children up can register online: <https://forms.gle/J59fjAZw5HCqfKWQ8> The cost is \$40. Scholarships are available. See Alex Mabee with questions.

HOPE ACADEMY



Our Hope Academy PA school will open its doors starting Tuesday, September 5th! Jennifer Graf is the director. 3 and 4 year olds still have time to enroll Classes will be offered 3, 4, or 5 days a week from 9-11:30am. Email: Jen@Tree4Hope.org

SIGN UP TO READ AND ASSIST

If you'd like to sign up to be a reader or Assisting Minister, please sign up on the sheet by the church office! No experience necessary. Please email Jen at: jjoyce@stpetersmiddletown.org if you would like to have the reading sent to you in advance or in large print.