

Sunday August 4th, 2024
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world.

He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

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 4th, 2024

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

Liz Joyce

PRELUDE: *Scars to Your Beautiful* by Alessia Cara

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

MEDITATION: *True Colors* By Justin Timberlake

GATHERING HYMN: *Shine Jesus Shine* ELW 671 v 1, 2

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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways

of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

PSALM: Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

²³ So God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴ **raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them ¹ grain from heaven.**

²⁵ So mortals ate the bread of angels; God provided for them food enough.

²⁶ **The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out the south wind,**

²⁷ raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸ **letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings.**

²⁹ So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us

come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Camp Alleluia

ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

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

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel according to St. John the sixth chapter. **Glory to you O, Lord**

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

YOUNG WORSHIPER'S MESSAGE SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *Be a Light* by: Thomas Rhett

In a time full of war, be peace
In a time full of doubt, just believe
Yeah, there ain't that much difference between you and me
In a time full of war, be peace

CHORUS:

In a world full of hate, be a light
When you do somebody wrong, make it right
Don't hide in the dark, you were born to shine
In a world full of hate, be a light

(La-la-la, la, la, la, la)

In a place that needs change, make a difference
In a time full of noise, just listen
'Cause life is but a breeze, better live it
In a place that needs a change, make a difference

CHORUS

La-la-la, la, la, la, la

In a race that you can't win, slow it down
Yeah, you only get one go around
'Cause the finish line is six feet in the ground
In a race you can't win, just slow it down

CHORUS

Yeah, it's hard to live in color, when you just see black and white
In a world full of hate, be a light
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.

Merciful God, receive 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 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.

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, 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

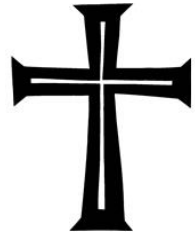
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. 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 Things by: Benson Boone

For a while there, it was rough
But lately, I've been doin' better
Than the last four cold Decembers I recall
And I see my family every month
I found a girl my parents love
She'll come and stay the night
And I think I might have it all
And I thank God every day
For the girl He sent my way
But I know the things He gives me
He can take away And I hold you every night
And that's a feeling I wanna get used to
But there's no man as terrified
As the man who stands to lose you
Oh, I hope I don't lose you Mm
Please stay I want you, I need you, oh God
Don't take These beautiful things that I've got
Please stay I want you, I need you, oh God
Don't take These beautiful things that I've got
Oh-oh-oh-oh Ooh Please don't take
I found my mind, I'm feelin' sane
It's been a while, but I'm finding my faith
If everything's good and it's great
Why do I sit and wait 'til it's gone?
Oh, I'll tell ya, I know I've got enough
I've got peace and I've got love
But I'm up at night thinkin'
I just might lose it all Please stay
I want you, I need you, oh God Don't take
These beautiful things that I've got Oh-oh-oh-oh Ooh
Please stay I want you, I need you, oh God
I need These beautiful things that I've got
Count on Me by: Bruno Mars



If you ever find yourself stuck in the middle of the sea,
I'll sail the world to find you
If you ever find yourself lost in the dark and you can't see,
I'll be the light to guide you
Find out what we're made of
When we are called to help our friends in need

You can count on me like one two three I'll be there
And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two
You'll be there
'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah
Whoa, whoa Oh, oh Yeah, yeah

If you tossin' and you're turnin' and you just can't fall asleep
I'll sing a song Beside you
And if you ever forget how much you really mean to me
Everyday I will Remind you Ooh
Find out what we're made of
When we are called to help our friends in need

You can count on me like one two three
I'll be there
And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two
You'll be there
'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah
Oh, oh Yeah, yeah

You'll always have my shoulder when you cry
I'll never let go Never say goodbye
You know you can

Count on me like one two three I'll be there
And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two
And you'll be there
'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah Oh, oh
You can count on me 'cause I can count on you

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: ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Dancing in the Streets from Sister Act 2

The altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Alice Treichler by the Lippy Family. The bulletins and candles are dedicated for the gift of loved ones by Marie Fox.

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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: Nancy Swartz, George Hein, Art Wiand, Chancel Ilunga, Erma Grim, 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, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, Linda Holmes, Jim Hurst, Tina Polito, Doris Arnold, Thelma Thomas, and Richard Brandt.

Our prayers and the comfort of our Christian faith are extended to the family of Audean Bryan who served the church as a secretary for many years.

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

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

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

St. Peter's is looking for one more volunteer to participate in a stewardship program through the synod. The program is comprised of six virtual training sessions, all of which are offered twice. Please see Molly if you are interested in learning more or would like to register! The cost has been covered.

END OF SUMMER BASH

St. Peter's & TOGETHER are excited to be hosting a free community event to celebrate the end of summer and beginning of a new school year! We need volunteers to help play music & sing, prepare food, assist with games, and other needs. The bash is **August 17th from 5pm-8pm**. Help with set-up & tear-down would be greatly appreciated! Please see Alex if you are interested in helping out in any way.

FREE CONCERT- The Community Band will be performing in Luther Hall on Sunday, **September 8th at 1:00pm**. Stay after service for refreshments and fellowship before the performance.

LS SWO Women of the ELCA 32nd annual Camp Hebron Retreat is coming up this fall from Oct. 25th through Oct. 27th. The retreat will use the letters from Paul to explore the early ideas of the Christian church and how women were instrumental in shaping our church. We would love to have you attend with us! Sign up forms are available in the lobby. Registration deadline is September 9th, 2024.

SLEEP WELL UKRAINE FUNDRAISER

We will be holding an event to raise funds to support Sleep Well Ukraine on **Thursday August 22, 2024 at 6pm**. There will be a pancake supper, classical guitar concert and kids events including a jamboree, a pajama party and movie. Come join us for the fun!

Sleep Well, Ukraine is a web-broadcast daily show from 8-9 pm in Ukraine (1-2 pm in US) and airs calming music that Ukrainian parents can play at bedtime to help their children sleep. It was founded in 2022 to address the needs of the children in Ukraine living in combat zones and assist with sleep in this time of trauma. All the proceeds of this event will be sent to Sleep Well, Ukraine to continue to the program from the healing of the children through music. For more information on Sleep Well, Ukraine, go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/527248645575550

OFF THE STREETS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars for the Off the Streets – First Annual Golf Tournament at Sunset Golf Course, Middletown, PA on September 6, 2024. The event begins with registration from 6:30AM-7:15AM and a start time of 7:30AM. Following the tournament, there will be a Beef and Chicken buffet offered by Bob Brant Catering.

To make this event a success and continue the community support from OTS – Middletown to the families in our area that need housing, furniture, security deposits, and volunteers to help with moves, we need golfers and sponsors to join us and to pass the word.

Please check with the office for registration and sponsor forms or contact Dennis May at 717-919-9225