



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship

Our Mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others

St. Peter's Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan Suloff

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ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3025 CHURCH ROAD
LAFAYETTE HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Welcome:

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
+ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

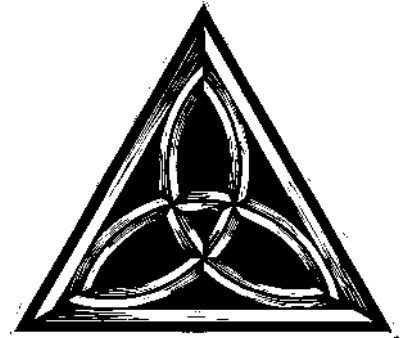
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Pastor: Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

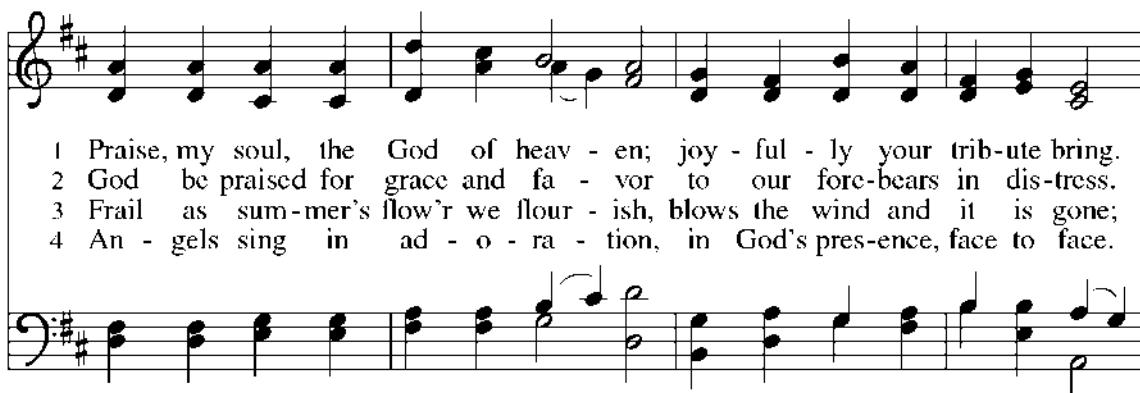
Assembly: **We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

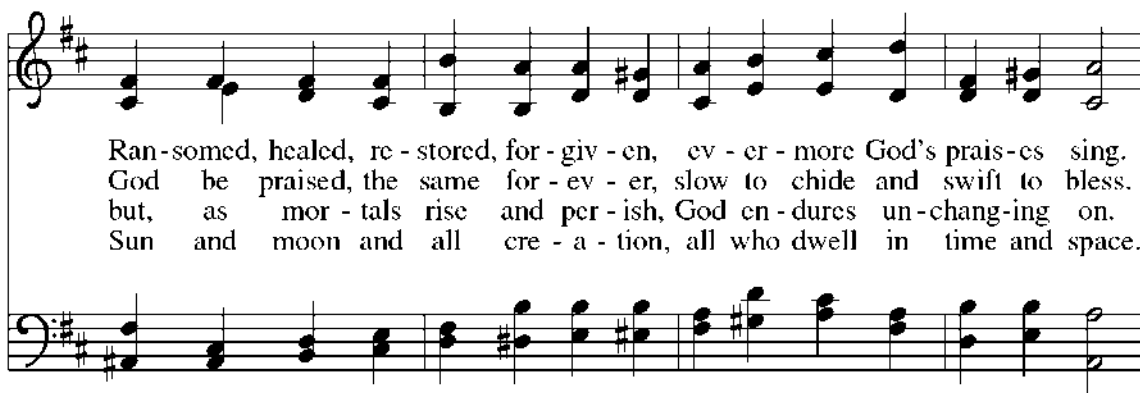
Assembly: **Amen.**




Opening Hymn: *“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”*



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL. John Goss, 1800–1880

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Kyrie:

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Hymn of Praise:

“Glory to God”

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

☐ 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.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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.

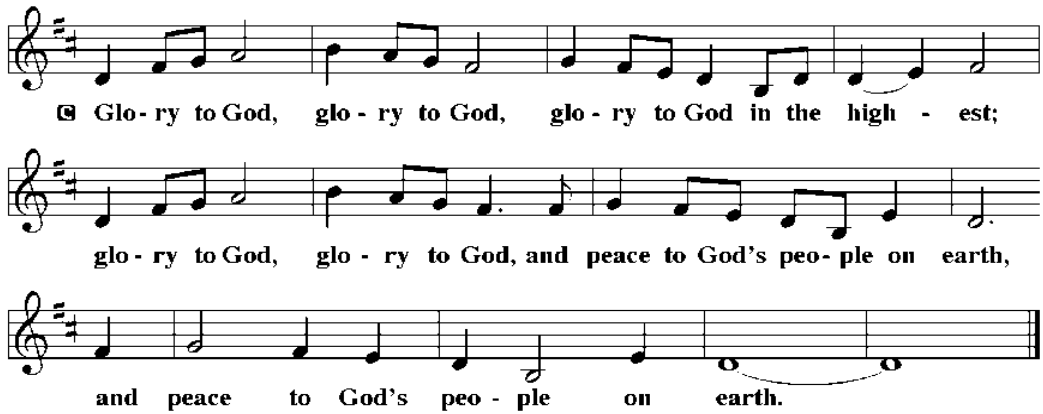
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.



☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

The Salutation:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

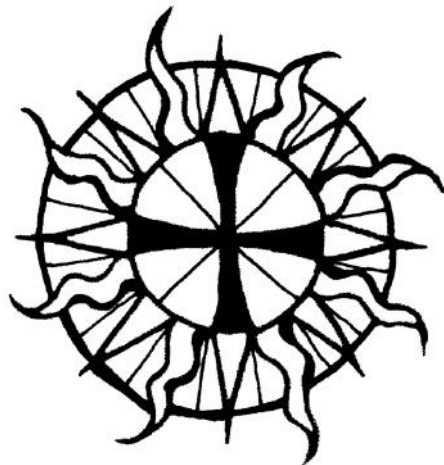
Prayer of the Day:

Pastor: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Please be seated

Announcements:



First Reading:**Genesis 50:15-21**

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading:**Romans 14:1-12**

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Message:

Pastor Suloff

Please stand

Hymn of the Day:

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.



The Apostles Creed:

Pastor: With the whole people of God, let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

Assembly: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 Intercession:

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

Please kneel or be seated

(The Prayers of the Church are said)

Pastor: Merciful God; **Assembly: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

Please stand

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Assembly: And also with you.

Offering:

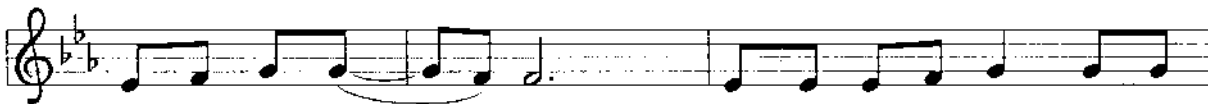
Offering Music: "His Mercy Is More" - Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

The Offertory:

“Create In Me”



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,

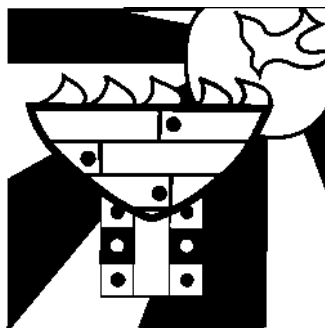


and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer:

Pastor: God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Assembly: Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

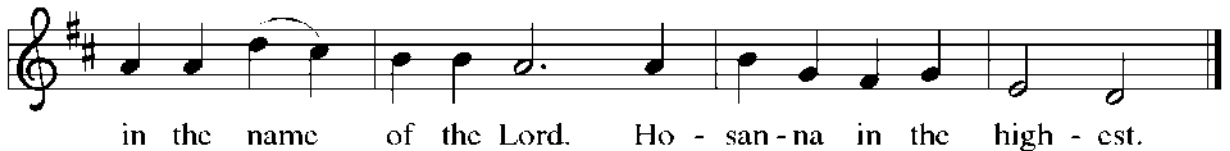
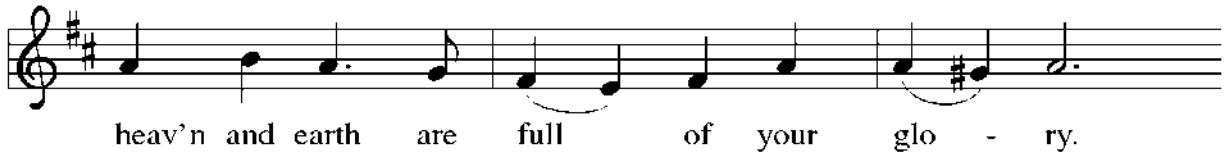
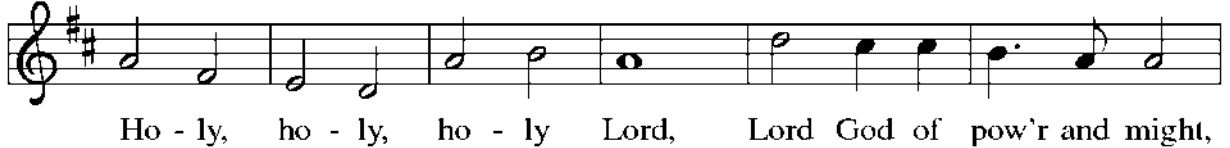
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

People: And also with you

People: We lift them to the Lord.

People: It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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:



Words of Institution

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
**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.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution:

All those who believe in the presence of the Lord are welcome at the table and are invited to share in the sacrament. If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing from the pastor please join the line in the middle aisle of the sanctuary, receive the bread, and then move to the chalice and dip your wafer in the wine. If you prefer to remain in your pew or are joining us for worship online please take the individual Communion Cup or the elements of your choosing and share them with one another and with the community when you are ready. If young children are present who have not yet received their First Communion please bring them forward or take a moment and share a blessing with them (and if you would like your child to receive their First Communion please speak with the Pastor). Be the community of Christ with all those gathered near and far. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

(At this time receive the bread, cracker, or that which you are using as the body of Christ)

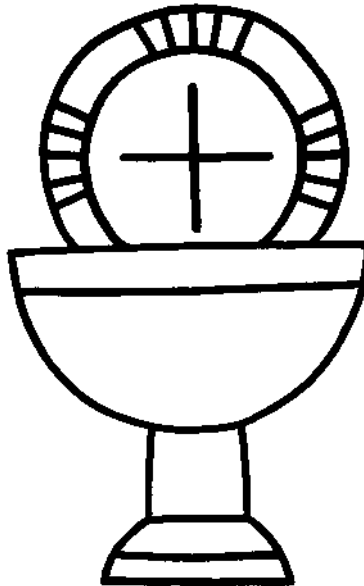
Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

(At this time receive the wine, juice, water, or that which you are using as the blood of Christ)

Communion Music:

“Getting Started”

- Jeremy Camp



Please Stand

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer:

Pastor: Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Assembly: Amen.



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

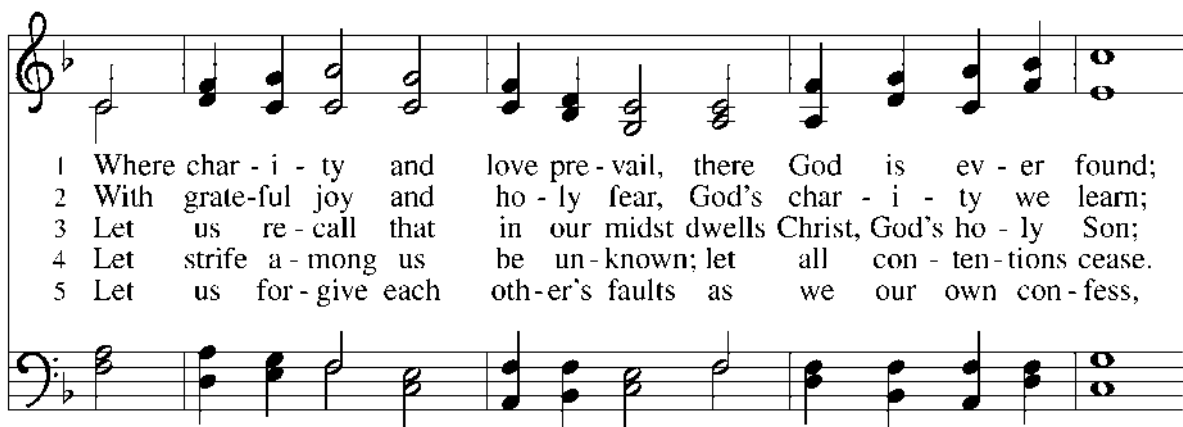
The Benediction:

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

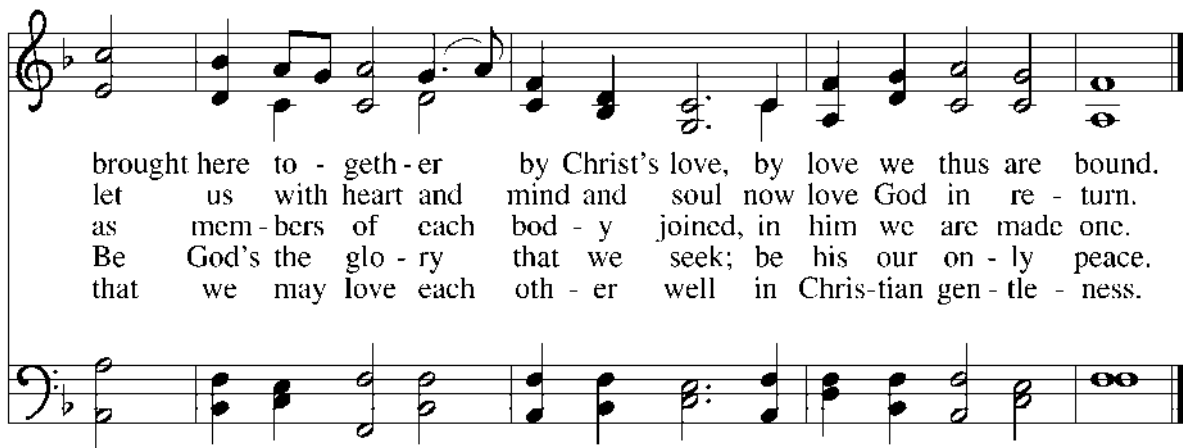
Assembly: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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The Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace to share the life, love, and joy of Jesus Christ with all.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Flower Dedication

Happy Birthday to my loving husband, Joe, and Happy Heavenly Birthday to my dear departed friend Bernadette McMeans.

-Sandy Leonardo

HELP US KEEP THE PRAYER LIST CURRENT:

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list please contact the church office at office-assist.splh@gmail.com or simply use the Prayer Request Form that can be found on the church website.

Please remember in your prayers those members, family and friends on our prayer list:

Joanne Barnhardt	Walt Humm	Bernadette Pence
Mary Bolognese	Ted Hyczko	Lindsay Peterson
The Chamberlain Family	Betty Jane Knittel	Leigh Richard
Debbie Davis	George Kulczycky	The Shollenberger Family
Marge Devitt	The Kwartnik Family	Ursula Schwartz
Cooper Durham	John Soo Lee & Family	Steve Schultz
Hunter Durham	Rose Letouille	William Scott
Robert Emberger	Maryanne Lorenzon	Karen Specos
Lindy Hughes	Melissa Mooran	Karen Speers
	The Neborak Family	John Swancott

Support St. Peter's with RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip)!!

RaiseRight (formerly Shop-
WithScrip) has been in opera-
tion at St. Peter's since
2007. So far, the RaiseRight
program has contributed

\$39,600.00 to St. Peter's. This

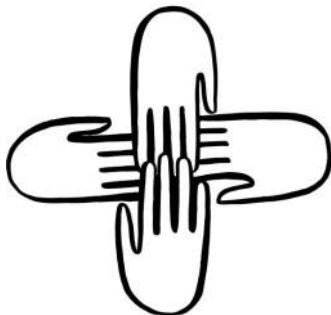
includes \$2,100.00 raised in 2022. When someone buys RaiseRight cards, they pay the face value of the card and they get the face value of the card. St. Peter's receives a percentage of that face value from RaiseRight. The customer doesn't need to do anything except purchase the cards. The "donation" part of the process is all done behind the scenes.

Gift card purchases through RaiseRight don't have to be hundreds of dollars - \$5 and \$10 cards are available and all amounts help pay down the church mortgage. Download the RaiseRight app, sign up (our Enrollment Code is 7B43336F15851) and be part of something impactful for St. Peter's. Or, visit Jane Stettler at the front door of the church before or after the service. You can also contact Jane and she will send you a sign-up email to walk you through the process.



RaiseRight.

Formerly ShopWithScrip



Volunteer!

We are looking for people to help out everywhere!!!

We are looking for folks to help out as Worship

Assistants, to help lead us in song as part of the choir or as an instrumentalist, to help with Finance, Property, Worship & Music, Sunday School, Cemetery Care, Social Ministry, Prayer Shawl

Ministry, Prayer Team, our Audio/Visual elements on Sunday morning, and pretty much anything else you can think of! If you are willing to help serve as a Communion Assistant, Usher, or Greeter

please use the link below or use the sign-up available in the church narthex. If you are interested in helping with any of our ministries please contact Pastor Suloff. Don't worry, you're not signing up for a lifetime or a bunch of long meetings, just a willingness to help out when you can, where you can, in a place you are passionate about!

Worship has ended, let the service begin!



St. Peter's Statement of Welcome

All people are created by God. We affirm with the apostle Paul, that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one. In keeping with our mission statement “to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others”, we welcome all people regardless of characteristics which might cause exclusion or discrimination outside of St. Peter's.

We affirm that all people share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God. All people are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith as all other members make. Members of this congregation are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.

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