



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25th, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

*GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Prelude

DeBussy

*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

based upon Psalm 8 and Genesis 1

**"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens."**

We gather to praise you!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

**"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens."**

We gather to celebrate you!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

And God saw that it was good..."

We gather to celebrate our God.

**"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens."**

We gather to worship you!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

And God saw that it was very good...”
We gather to worship our God!
**All praise, honor, majesty and power
belongs to our Creating God! Amen**

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***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Let us pray.

Eternal God our creator, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives us all our sins. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

When Morning Guilds the Skies

ELW 853

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 34:15-22

Prayed responsively by the leader and congregation.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

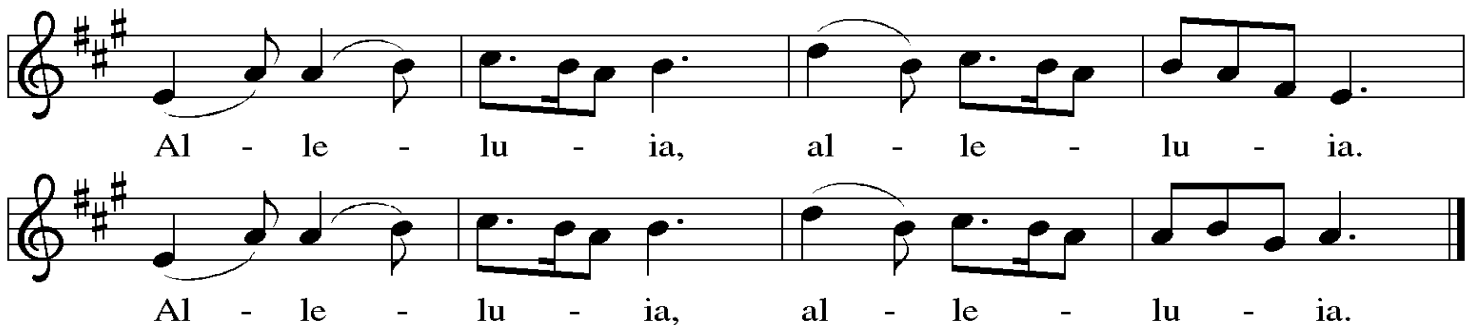
Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the Word of God inspired by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

Gospel Acclamation
Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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*GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to St. John
Glory to you, O Lord.

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to the dead.

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

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Faithful God, we pray for the church. Lead it always to proclaim its faith in you, who gives us the words of eternal life. Give your church the gifts of truth and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this beautiful planet. Renew our sense of wonder and our determination to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world. Equip them to serve with justice and to dispel the forces of evil. Inspire the citizens of every country to love wisdom and mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the brokenhearted and those whose spirits are crushed. Wrap them in the warm embrace of your all-encompassing love. Restore them to wholeness, especially... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us, especially... Give us wisdom to follow their example of faithful living and to stay true to the path of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

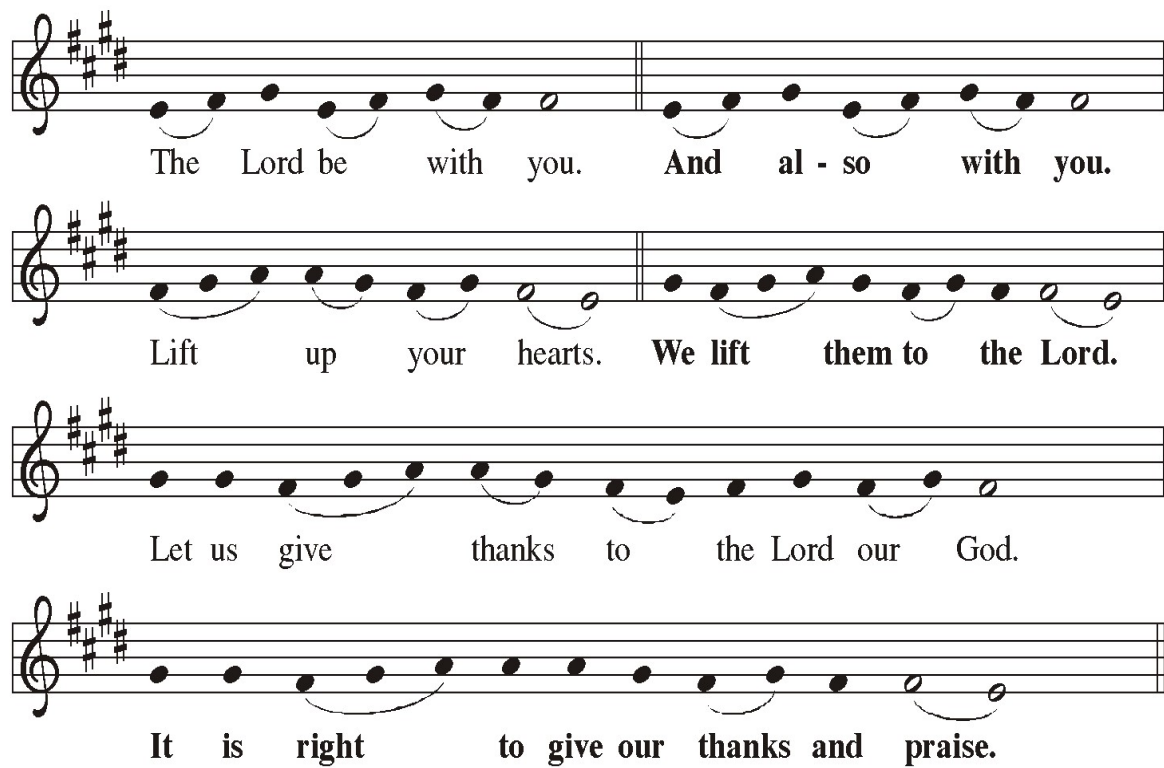
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

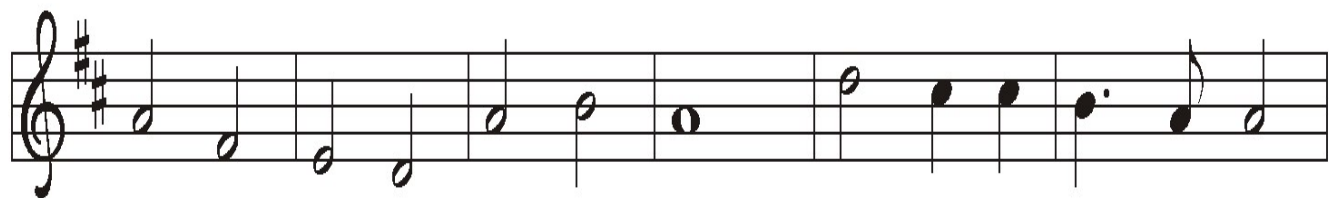
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

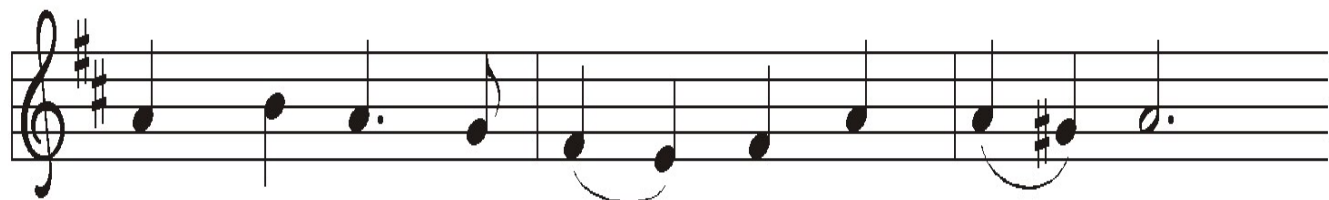
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And 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:



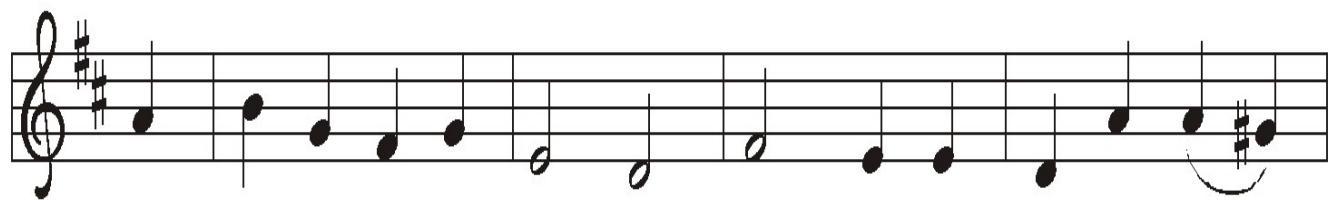
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught 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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION

Outdoor Portrait

Debussy

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace. **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the Real Presence of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BENEDICTION**

The blessing of the living God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Mazurka

Debussy

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

John Broussard

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

LECTORS

Paul and Carrie Watkiss

GREETERS

Edward and Joanne Sefara

USHER

Janet Broussard

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Edward and Joanne Sefara

IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel, and Mary Sasuta. ***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, and Janie Tarbox.



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Wednesday, August 28th

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Wednesday, August 28th

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Outdoor Worship this Autumn

October 6th with Blessing of Animals
in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,
renewer of the church, died 1226



QUESTIONS REMAIN

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus taught the disciples what it means to follow him, delving deeper into difficult concepts with each step toward the cross. Jesus' thought-provoking and life-changing words challenged existing wisdom, stretching the boundaries of belief, forcing each person who heard them to reevaluate everything they thought they knew. How could they eat this bread and live forever?

Is it any easier for us to wrap our minds around Jesus' teachings? How do we open our hearts to the mystery of flesh given for us, blood shed for us, and bread come down from heaven when our culture insists that there is a simple black-and-white answer to every question? Who takes time to slow down and reflect on challenging Bible passages? Can we allow those words we do not understand to just be, to percolate and take root in the fertile soil of Christ's presence until the Spirit can coax a shoot of understanding to spring forth and grow into the light?

Too many unanswered questions weighed heavily on some of Jesus' followers. They wanted out; it was too difficult. They turned back to the safety of familiar routines and comfortable ideologies, prompting Jesus to wonder if all the disciples would abandon him. "Do you also wish to go away?" he asked the twelve (John 6:67). He asks the same question of us today whenever the circumstances of our lives challenge our faith, whenever our hearts are broken and our bodies exhausted, whenever it feels like we cannot take another step. Will we trust in Jesus' promise that his words are spirit and life? Do we believe he is the Holy One of God?

Questions remain, but the good news is that God's love is stronger than our doubts and fears, calling us back to worship, filling us with strength and giving us peace in the midst of uncertainty.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

August 18th, 2024

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,415.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,200.00

