

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 7, 2020



“When I look at the sun and moon...”

*Psalm 8*

**Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
**Our mission is “To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,**  
**and to Show the Love of Christ”**  
*We are glad you are here!*

**Prelude Music**

**Pianist: Sue Paulsen**

**Welcome**

**Pastor Eric Olsen**

**Invocation**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Presider:* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Presider:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. **God, have mercy.**

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. **God, have mercy.**

Most Merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** Amen

*Presider:* In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ’s authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Father , Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

# Opening Hymn “Holy, Holy Holy”

ELW # 413

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.  
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

**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.**

**Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading: Genesis 1: 1—2:4a**

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,<sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.<sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.<sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.<sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”<sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.<sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup> LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, <sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

**Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

**Hymn****"Thy Strong Word"****ELW # 511 verses 1,2,5,6**

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth

speaking it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er

thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia with - out end!

5. Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
 throats that shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy holy name.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 May the light which thou dost send  
 fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!
6. God the Father, light-creator, to thee laud and honor be.  
 To thee, Light of Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

## **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers Of The People**

### **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## Announcements

## Benediction

**Closing Hymn “*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*” ELW # 834**

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun-tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

## **Sending Response**

We are welcomed into God's love,  
**Just as we are**  
We are sent into God's world,  
**To be a reflection of Christ.**  
Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

## **ZOOM WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today (June 7th) for Worship and Fellowship time on ZOOM. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by [Clicking Here](#) Password: 874950 or Call: 1 253-215-8782 ~if busy call 1 669-900-9128 At prompt enter Meeting ID: 846 0569 4721

## **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Click [HERE](#) or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. Just ignore the sign in/log in prompt.

## **Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM**

Join us for the Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM at 10:00 am Thursday Morning. [Click HERE](#) to join us on ZOOM. Your audio and video will be muted automatically when you join. To dial in by phone call 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 414 101 024

## **Volunteers Needed**

It's that time of year again! The Church is seeking volunteers to care for the church this summer. Please call the church office if you are able to assist.

## **Janitor Opening**

PLC is looking to fill the custodial position. A job description is available by calling the church office, 772-3144. We would like to thank Grant and Lila for their many years of caring for our facility.

## **Prayers for Health & Healing**

Stan Hjort	Mike Harai	Joan Shilling	Char Hoiosen
Tim Fisk	Renee Volk	Floyd Thompson	
Marjorie Marzolf		Tabitha Fenton	
Fred & Karen Haltiner			

## **Prayers for those Serving our Country**

Jesse Anderson	serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, serving in San Diego, CA
Dave Chapman	serving in Honolulu, HI
Shania Dahlberg	serving at Camp Pendleton, CA
Jon Floyd	serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Parker	serving in Bangor, WA
Michael Gardner	serving in Fort Meade, MD
Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving in Pensacola, FL
Michael Serafini	serving at Ft Irwin, CA
John Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson, AK
Kevin Thynes	serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Ben Zarlengo	USCG, serving on the Great Lakes
Joe Zarlengo	USCG, serving at Sector Juneau

## **Prayers for Our Church Council**

Church Council: Desi Burrell, Ginger Evens, Secretary;  
Susan Holmes, President; Leesa Murph, Youth; Tom Parker,  
Liv Perschon, Vice President; John Small; John Swanson;  
Chris Van Ettinger, Treasurer

## **Your Offering**

During this time when we are out of the Church building our expenses continue about as they always are. If your custom is to support the church through the offering, we encourage you to find a way to continue your support. Some have mailed their checks: PO. Box 709. Some have started to contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page click [HERE](#) and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking [HERE](#) Our gifts to the general budget through June 4th were \$4637. The amount needed to meet our general budget each month is \$20,162.

## **Face Coverings**

The Church is in need of some cloth and/or disposable face coverings to have on hand. Please call the office if you can help.

## **Hand Sanitizer & Sanitizing Wipes**

Contributions of the thicker style of Hand Sanitizer & Wipes (60% alcohol -Purell or Germ-X, for example) will be needed and greatly appreciated here at Petersburg Lutheran Church. They are hard to find! If you see any, please pick them up for the Church. If you need to be reimbursed, you can submit your receipt and we will be happy to do so.

## **Church Bulletins**

If you would like to receive the Church Bulletin electronically or by mail, please call the church office at 772-3144 and we will put you on the email list or arrange a way for you to receive the bulletin.

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## Petersburg Lutheran Church Reopening/Mitigation Plan

On June 3rd, 2020, Petersburg Lutheran Church Council voted to reopen the church for services **beginning June 14th**. The reopening will follow mandates and guidelines established by the State of Alaska and some considerations for reopening provided by the Alaska Synod. It is intended to allow in-church worship while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission for our safety.

We realize that individuals have varying perspectives on the appropriate response to the ongoing situation. It is our duty and responsibility to show our Christian love for one another by making these important, temporary changes in our worship habits. In doing so, there will be a number of changes within the church and with our usual way of doing business. We have developed and will follow this plan as long as necessary to do everything we can to protect each other and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Guidelines for Church Services

- 1. Reopening Alaska:** Everyone will be expected to follow the COVID-19 Reopening Alaska responsible Attachment N which states that persons with COVID 19 symptoms should not be on the premises. Reopening Alaska Phase III/IV Guidance includes “the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus...keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.”
- 2. Entering and Exiting the church:** Parishioners shall enter the church through the door at the front of the church below the outside steps and exit through the double doors at the top of the outside steps. If you arrive and realize you need to go back out to your car for something prior to the service starting, please use the double doors to the outside steps. If you need to use the elevator, please do so. Upon exiting, use a sanitary wipe in the elevator to disinfectant areas you have contacted.
- 3. Face coverings:** Face coverings must be worn by everyone entering and exiting the church as well as through the entire service. Exceptions will be made for the pianist, the pastor, a soloist, and the reader when reading the lessons. If you are unable to wear a mask we invite you to continue worshiping at home, online or on the radio.

- 4. Checking In.** While we will not have typical Greeters and Ushers someone will be by the double doors to give you a face covering if you forgot one. Out of a desire to protect those at greater risk of more severe consequences for COVID-19, someone will ask if you are ill (even slightly) or have just traveled and if that is the case you will be asked not to join the group that is gathering.
- 5. Distancing:** The mandate requires that in all public spaces, a six-foot social distancing from other members of the public be maintained. Social distancing is not required for members of the same household.
- 6. Seating:** Parishioners should sit in designated areas as per the church layout diagram. (See page 18) Roped off pews shall not be used.
- 7. Sanitizing:** When you come in use the hand sanitizer provided by the entrances and use again upon exiting.
- 8. Tithes and Offerings:** An offering will not be taken during the service. However, offering plates will be available by the double doors as you enter the sanctuary both before and after the service.
- 9. Bulletins:** Bulletins will be placed at the designated seats on Fridays. Hymnals, Bibles, and Children's bags will not be available for use. If you would like to have a Bible or a hymnal, please bring your own.
- 10. Singing, Communal Prayers, and Readings:** To mitigate droplet projection (aerosol), singing, communal prayers and readings will be done while seated, wearing a face covering. Worship leaders may stand, unmasked, a minimum of 15' from congregants.
- 11. Length of Service:** The service length will be shorter (30-45 minutes) in an effort to minimize droplet projection.
- 12. Overflow:** In the event there are more parishioners than designated sitting available in the sanctuary the Fellowship Hall is set to social distance and watch the service via Facebook on the TV.

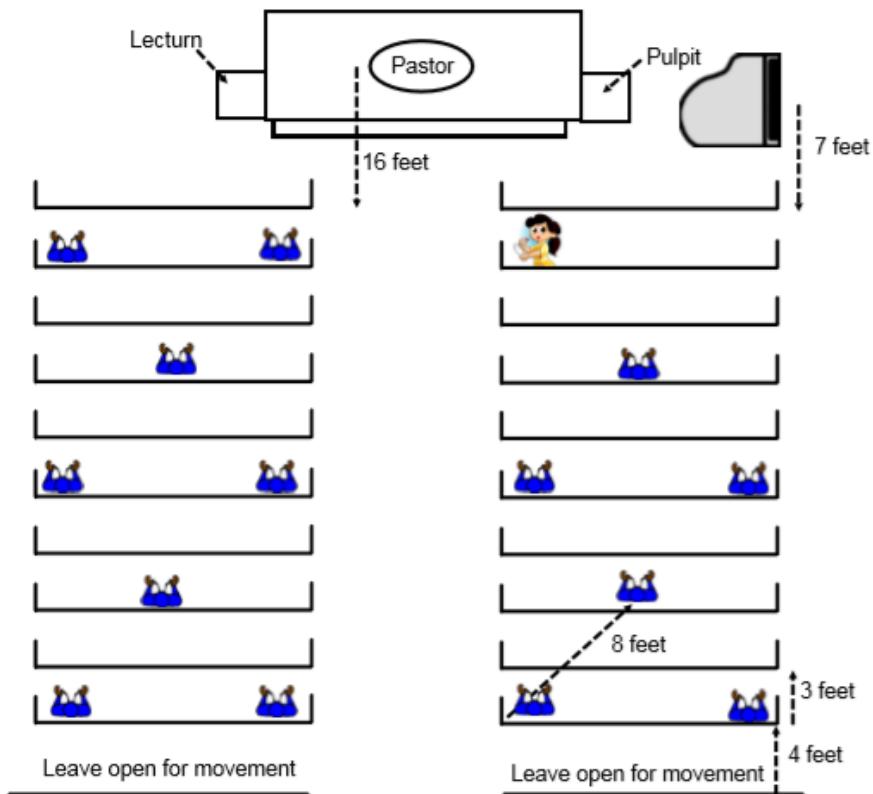
13. **Balcony:** The balcony will be closed to all parishioners except the sound person and a singer.
14. **Airflow:** All doors will remain open 15 minutes before, during, and 15 minutes after the service to allow for extra airflow. Please dress accordingly.
15. **VERY SPECIAL NOTES:** There will be no sharing of the peace, no communion, no coffee hour/fellowship in person after church, no lingering in church after the service, and no children's sermon.
16. **Closed Areas:** The office, and kitchen areas will be closed until it is safe to open again.
17. **Restrooms:** The restrooms will be open. There will be a sign on the mirror in the restrooms giving instructions on how you should sanitize the restroom prior to leaving if you use it.

## **Communication & Virtual Worship**

1. **Communication:** This plan will be communicated to all interested parties by mail, email, by posting it on the church website and outside the church entrance.
2. **Bulletins:** Bulletins will continue to be emailed out in preparation for the upcoming worship service.
3. **Virtual Worship:** Services via the radio (88.5 FM), Zoom, and Facebook will continue as they have been for those who will join worship service from home.
4. **Zoom Fellowship Time:** Fellowship time, supply your own coffee, will continue for those who want to join in using the Zoom format that is currently in place.

If you have questions please contact the church office at 772-3144 and someone will return your call.

## Church Layout Diagram



Entrance to the church will be through the door below the outside stairs and exit will be through the double doors at the top of the outside stairs.

The pews with family units on each side are to be used by families of two or less.

The pew with only one family group should be used by family groups of 3 or more and the family should sit near the center of the pew.

In the event the sanctuary is full then family units will be seated in the Fellowship hall.

Symbols:  - family unit

 - reader

## This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

### Sunday, June 7th

9:00 am..."Sing for Joy" St. Olaf Choir, Northfield, MN

10 am... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

### Thursday

10 am... Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

3 pm.... Executive Committee Meeting

### Sunday, June 14th

10 am ...Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

### Petersburg Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Olsen ~ [plcakpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plcakpastor@gmail.com)

406 Excel Street PO Box 709

Office: 772-3144

Email: [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com)

[www.petersburglutheran.com](http://www.petersburglutheran.com)

**Sermon audio:** [www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons](http://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons)

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

### Follow us on Facebook:

Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

**Salvation Army Pantry Needs:** canned soups and stews

**June Prayer Partner:** St. Mark Lutheran Church, Anchorage

**June Mission Support:** Good Beginnings Preschool; Petersburg, AK



**Sun. June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Jay Weaver

**Mon. June 8<sup>th</sup>:** Zach Christiansen, Sandi Meeks

**Wed. June 10<sup>th</sup>:** Mike Neuneker

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**June 7, 2020**

## **HOLY TRINITY**

### **Triune God, Triune Church**

On this Trinity Sunday, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples. They are words of sending, command, and blessing. They include the great promise, comfort, and empowerment: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

The rest of Jesus' message is all about what happens *until* the end of the age. In the meantime, the church is active in sharing the good news, baptizing, and teaching the way of Jesus. This is done at Jesus' command and under his authority with people of all nations. The word "nations" doesn't quite capture the breadth of what Jesus means. The actual term in Greek is more expansive, including all ethnicities and cultures. Instead of a blank, monochromatic sheet of paper, the church is a colorful patchwork quilt of people pieced together, stitched together, and united in the love of Christ.

Today we celebrate that we know God as Trinity. The Trinity serves as a model for the life of the church: God is not one-dimensional, but multifaceted. The Trinity is not monochromatic, but rather a swirling, colorful dance. There is no division in the Trinity, but an indwelling of the Spirit, the gentle authority of Christ, and the blessing of the Father.

In a world that is often polarized and divided, and in which marginalized groups face persecution and strife, we are called as followers of Christ to live beyond borders and division. The church is to be a gathering of peoples made up of every type of human distinction. By gathering all varieties of people into Christ, we live into the embodied reality of our triune God. May we be emboldened to do so, knowing that we are accompanied and empowered by our Savior "to the end of the age."

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Next week's readings: Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8,  
Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]