

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost



Our mission is  
“to Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,  
and to Show the Love of Christ.”

**Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
*We are glad you are here!*

**PRELUDE**

**Pianist:** Lila Trask

**WELCOME & INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** Eric Olsen

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.....

**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.**

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.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**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.**

# Opening Hymn

# "Gather Us In"

# ELW #532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

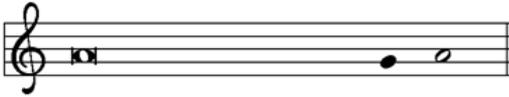
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Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



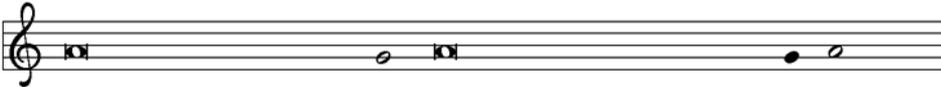
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



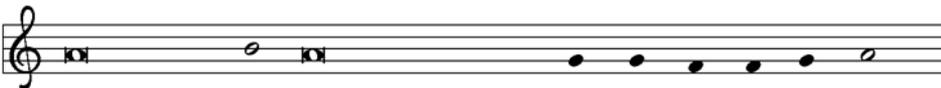
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast" ELW Setting Four #149

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Cont.*

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading: Acts 2:1-21** *Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God’s activity in multiple languages.*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

<sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

<sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” <sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm:104:24-34,35b**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27** *By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.*

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

**Hymn** "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" x 2 **ELW # 172**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
 Hal - le - lu - jah.  
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**Holy Gospel: John 15:26-27;16:4b-15** *While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16:4b</sup>“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

<sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. <sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

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

# SERMON

Pastor Eric Olsen

## HYMN

### “Spirit of Gentleness”

ELW # 396

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940  
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley  
Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENT**

I believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from our sins. I believe that GOD is my creator and the almighty ruler of his kingdom. I know I'm a part of his kingdom because he chose me, for me to spread his word and grow in my faith for him. GOD is guiding me on the path to righteousness because I can feel it within my soul. I feels as if each step I take he is right there to catch me if I stumble, he is with me and I am with him.

My favorite verse from the Bible is from Romans 10:9  
“Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that GOD raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Erik Thynes

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

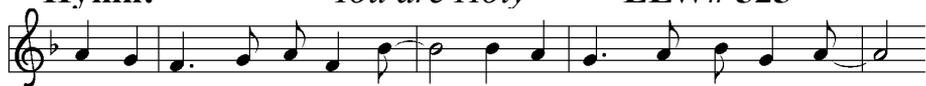
**ELW page 234-236**



# Hymn:

# "You are Holy

# ELW# 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* May be sung in canon.

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Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

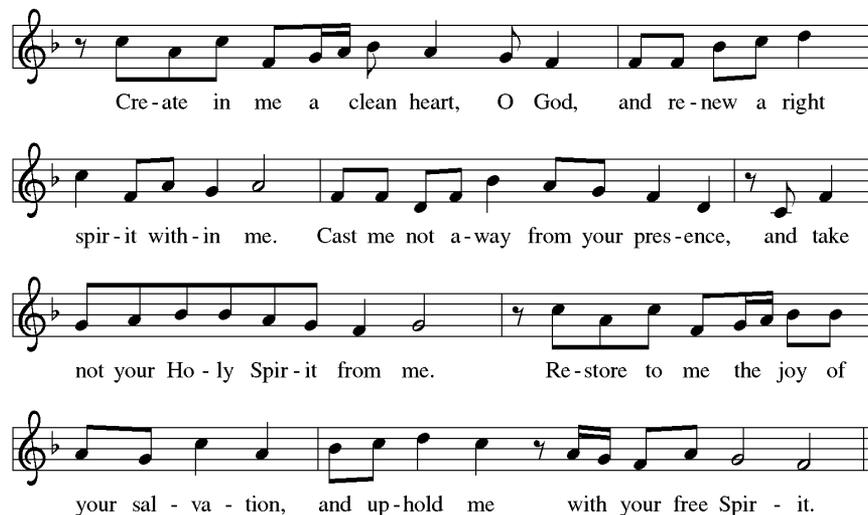
Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN: “*Create In Me*” ELW#186



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.

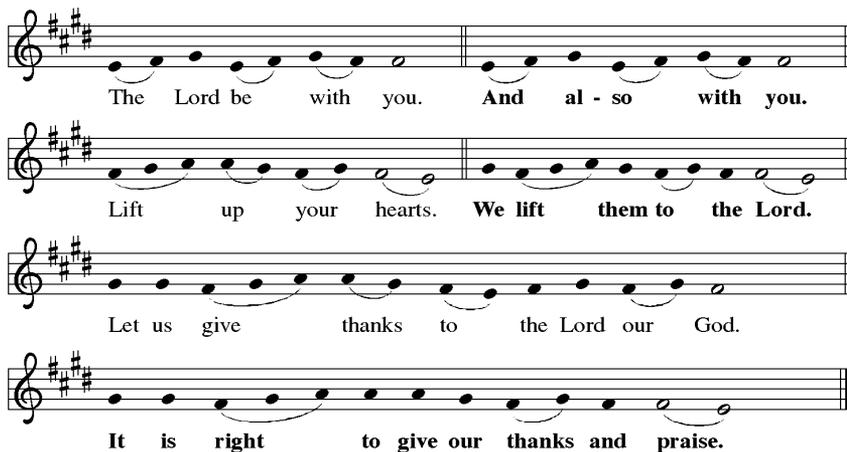
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## Offering Prayer

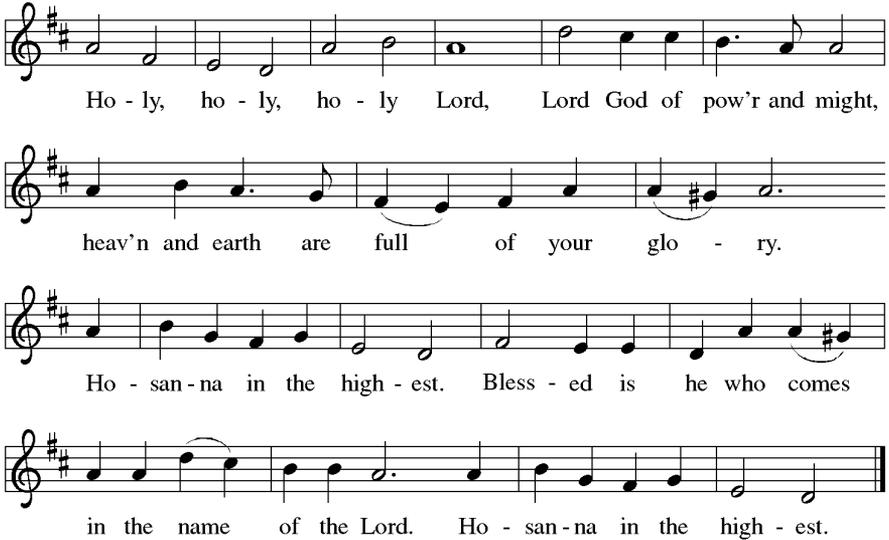
**We offer what you have first give us, our time and possessions, so that others may not feel alone, eat alone, live alone, be alone, but that they may be surrounded by your grace and love through us and the lives we offer to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:** It is indeed .... and join their unending hymn:



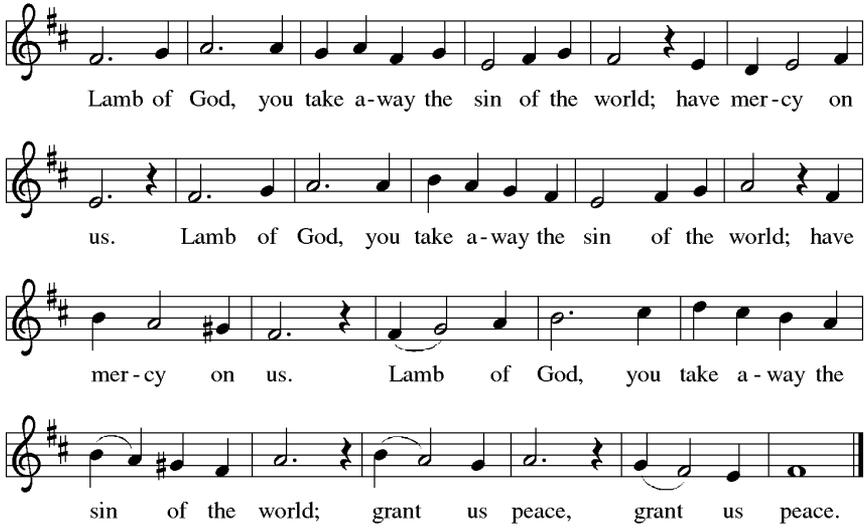
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

**P:** 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 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.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**  
**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
**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 trespasss, 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



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.

## COMMUNION

## BLESSING/PRAYER

## ANNOUCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION



# HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" ELW #547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed, Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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## **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**

### **Congratulations**

We congratulate the Seniors from Petersburg Lutheran Church who will be graduating from Petersburg High School on Monday. Annie Christensen, Leesa Murph, Owen O'Brocta, Max Marohl, Brennen Skeep and Mattias Volk.

### **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class Studying Matthew

10 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

**Thursday** 10 am... Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom. Will resume June 10.

### **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today May 23<sup>rd</sup> for 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 D: 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..

### **Sermon audio/video:**

<https://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons-2/>

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

Follow us on Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

## **Congratulations!**

Today Erik Thynes will be Confirmed through the Affirmation of Baptism service. We give thanks for the working of the Holy Spirit in Erik's life to create faith in him and give thanks for the faithful witness of his parents Dave & Tanya and his extended family, nurturing him in the faith.

**May Prayer Partner:** Amazing Grace Lutheran, Anchorage

**May Mission Support:** Special Funds for Local Needs

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Powered and can milk

**Prayers for Health & Healing** Tim Fisk, Roald Norheim, Randy and Shannon Payne, Joseph Tagaban, Pam Kriter, Gary Putnam, Samantha Keopple, Lois DeBoer, Paul and Chris Van Ettinger, Heidi Bieber, Dean Haltiner

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

Jesse Anderson	Serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, Deployed
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
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Jacksonville, NC



**Prayers for Our Church Council** Church Council:  
Chris Van Ettinger– President, Desi Burrell–Vice President  
Nancy Berg– Secretary, Robin Roberts– Treasurer,  
Tom Parker-Youth, John Swanson-Building Maintenance, Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings, Kara Newman, John Small



**Happy Birthday!!**

**Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>** Tracey Reid and Carol Olsen  
**Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>** Eva Lenhard  
**Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>** Gail Ribich and Max Henshaw  
**Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>** Jared Volk

**Your Offering**

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. 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](#).

**Your Offerings:**

Offering Month to Date \$8,508.39  
 Offering Year to Date \$72,653.64  
 Monthly General Budget \$20,162

**Pastoral Care** Pastor Eric will be out of town until June 4th. For Pastoral emergency's please contact the Church Office 907-772-3144

**Tech Help Needed**

We are looking for a few people who could assist with maintaining the Church web site, running the audio and video for church services and working with the 88.5FM station. Please contact the office if you are interested. 772-3144 or [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com)

<b>Thank you Volunteers</b>	This Week: May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Next Week: May 30 <sup>th</sup>
Musician	Lila Trask	Sue Paulson
Reader	Annie Christensen & Leesa Murph	
Counter	Susan Holmes	Betty Rogers

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**  
**May 23, 2021**  
**DAY OF PENTECOST**



**This Changes Everything**

On Pentecost, we celebrate the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us, bringing understanding and unity. However, for those present for the events described in the reading from Acts, in which the Holy Spirit descended and rested upon them, celebration wasn't exactly what those gathered were thinking about. *Terror* might be a more appropriate word. *Shock*, perhaps. *Mystery*. It felt like anything but a celebration; it was disruptive and frightening! After such an experience, your life is changed forever. Once you have lived through something so monumental, you are never the same.

And that is the point. That is why we celebrate. Because on this day, the church was born. On this day the apostles—students of an itinerant rabbi who had taught his followers for only a few years—were filled with the Holy Spirit, turned upside down and inside out, changed utterly. On this day, not only the apostles but also three thousand others (Acts 2:41) were filled with the Spirit that transforms us and enables us to see others as our siblings in Christ. Often, the aftermath of crisis makes strangers into friends.

Several thousand people who had been turned inward, thinking of themselves, their needs, and their concerns, were made a community, turned outward, thinking of their relationships, their neighbors, and the needs and concerns of others. “When the Spirit of truth comes,” Jesus had said, “he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit, blowing through a diverse group, signals a formation of community, a binding together to make a new way of living. And this is what God showed the apostles, the others gathered in that room, and the several thousand who were baptized: when the Holy Spirit blows into your life, nothing is ever the same. And that's a cause for celebration.

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**Next weeks Readings:** Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

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