

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 29, 2021



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

**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!*

**Music**

Pianist Tamara Evens

**Welcome**

Dave Berg

**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 cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**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:* God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# Opening Hymn "This is My Father's World" ELW# 824

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.  
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.  
 rus-ting grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-ry-where.  
 Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

**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: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9** *The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

**Second Reading: James 1:17-27** *The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

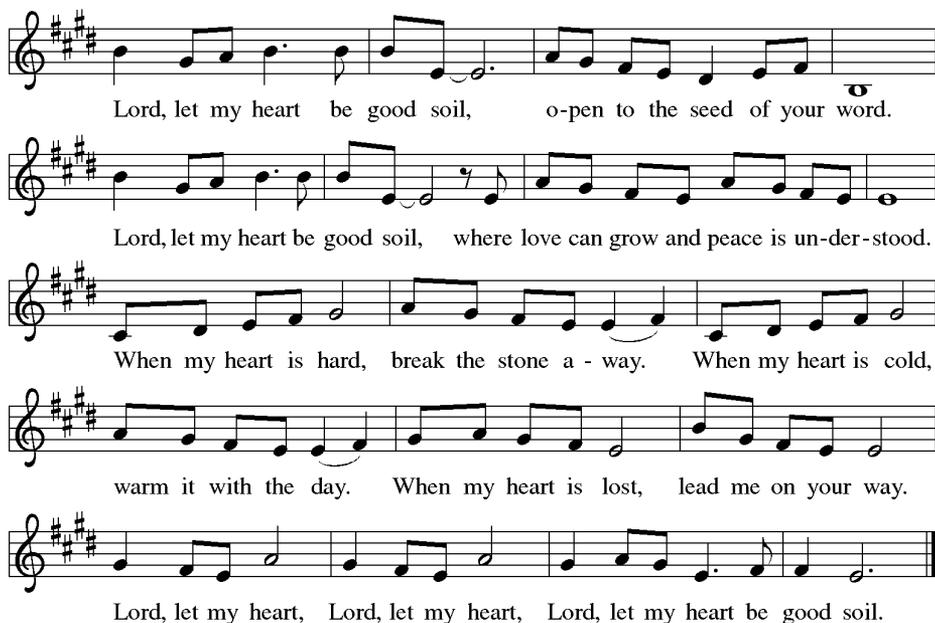
<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** “*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*” X 2 ELW #512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23** *Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

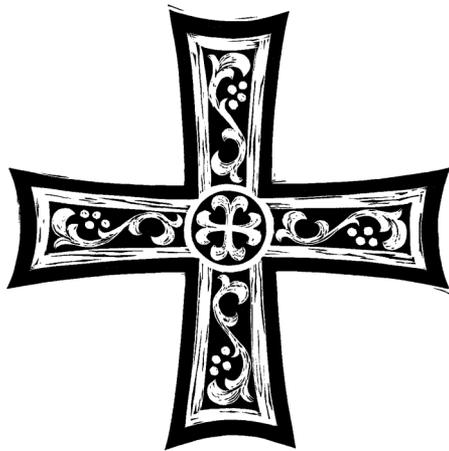
<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

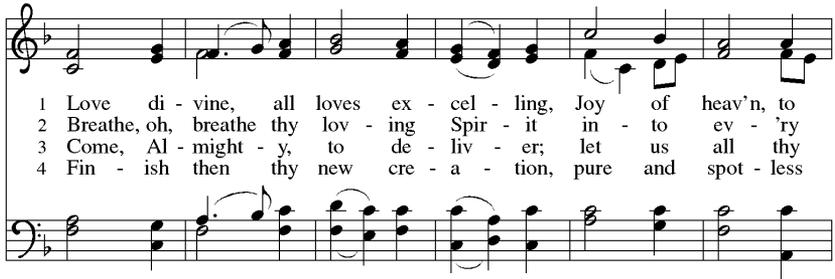
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
Response: **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

Mark Kubo



# Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW#631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love,  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## **Apostles Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People Lord in Your Mercy/ Hear Our Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Announcements

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**



# Closing Hymn “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” ELW #774



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



## Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

## **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**

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

**Sunday, August 29<sup>th</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  
September 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

Go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Or go to [www.petersburg.org](http://www.petersburg.org) and click on the Facebook link.

### **Worship in the Home**

“[Worship in the Home](#)” continues to be available each week on the ELCA Worship blog. You are encouraged to worship as you are able in homes on Sunday and throughout the week. In addition to Sunday worship resources, [resources for Daily Prayer](#) are available, including simplified forms of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer, as well as table prayers.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Eric will be on vacation from August 23 to September 6th. For Pastoral emergency's please contact the Church Office 907-772-3144.

### **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+

**August Prayer Partner:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer

**August Mission Support:** Kuwaa Mission Project, Liberia  
The project assists the Kuwaa peoples to “rebuild and restore their lives”. They work to provide safe drinking water and sanitary conditions in the area, to rebuild the schools, churches, and medical clinics, and assist with other needs.

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Jell-O Pudding Mix

**Prayers for Health & Healing:** Roald Norheim, Randy and Shannon Payne, Joseph Tagaban, Gary Putnam, Pam Krier, Lois DeBoer, Dean Haltiner, Andy Carlisle, Sharon Wikan, Lon Marifern, Mary Viner, Joyce Bjorkquist, Annette Olson, Pastor Al Solmonson and MaryAnn

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

Jesse Anderson	Serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, Deployed
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
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 in Swindon England
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,  
Robin Roberts– Treasurer, Nancy Berg-Worship,  
Tom Parker-Youth, John Swanson-Building Maintenance,  
Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings, Kara Newman, John Small



**BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY**

**Happy Birthday!!**  
**Today August 29<sup>th</sup>: Scott Hurt**  
**Friday Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Craig Evens**  
**Saturday Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>: Sherry Stockton**

**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 \$33,748  
 Offering year to date \$147,100  
 Monthly General Budget \$20,162

**WAVE Needs Your Help**

WAVE (Working Against Violence for Everyone) is seeking public input on the types of programs that they should offer in Petersburg. Please fill out their 2021 Prevention Programing Survey by August 31<sup>st</sup>. If completed by August 31<sup>st</sup> for a chance to win one of two \$250 gift certificates donated by Hammer & Wikan and Petro Marine. <https://psgwave.org/survey>

**Ruth Circle Quilters**

Quilters meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month 10am-2pm in the Church Basement. Bring your own lunch.

**Ushers needed.** Sign up sheets will be on the back table. If anyone would like to volunteer as an usher, please sign up on the sheet or call Shannon Peeler, 518-0377. Thank you!

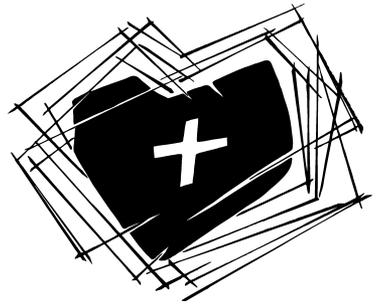
<b>Thank you Volunteers</b>	This Week: Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Next Week: Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>
Musician	Tamara Evens	Sue Paulson
Reader	Mary Thompson	
Counter	Roxy Lee	Pat Weaver
Coffee Crew	Church Council	Last Name A-E
Video	Jim Roberts	15

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 29, 2021

LECTIONARY 22

## Hearts in Need



In today's gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus why his disciples do not wash their hands prior to eating. This question might sound strange to those of us accustomed to antibacterial soap! The question, though, is not one of hygiene, but of religious practice. As Jesus points out in his response, practices around handwashing are more about ritual and tradition than they are about cleanliness. Make no mistake: the traditions and rituals that developed over generations were derived from and were attempts to follow the laws God had given the Jewish people in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. But by quoting the prophet Isaiah (Mark 7:6-8), Jesus bluntly tells the Pharisees that if their hearts remain far from God, then all the handwashing and tradition-following in the world is worthless.

It isn't wrong to practice ritual and tradition. In fact, it is good and right to seek to obey God's word, such as the directives we find in the Ten Commandments. But thinking we can be true to God's will through our own willpower will never succeed because, as Jesus tells us, going through the motions of ritual will not cleanse our hearts from sin. We cannot fix our own hearts. We cannot stop sinning of our own accord. Only God makes it possible for us to obey God's will. Jesus' message to the Pharisees is his message to us: our hearts are unclean and in need of his grace and forgiveness. The good news is that he comes to do exactly that. In the waters of baptism, in the words of absolution, in the bread and wine become body and blood, your heart is made clean and brought back to God. You, beloved child of God, are free and undefiled.

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**Next Week's Readings:** Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

### **Petersburg Lutheran Church**

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