

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 5, 2021

LECTIONARY 23



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** Sue Paulsen

**Welcome**

Bev Siercks

**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 “Earth and all Star” ELW# 731



1 Earth and all stars!	Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes!	Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel!	Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class-rooms and labs!	Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth!	Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams!	Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band!	Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son!	Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!
Sing to the Lord	a new song!

*Refrain*



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
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**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: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a** *These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### **Second Reading: James 2:1-10[11-13] 14-17** *Faithful*

*Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"

<sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

**Response:** Thanks be to God.



## Hymn: "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" ELW #786



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your  
 2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the  
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,  
 nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -  
 doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength  
 fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -  
 ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is  
 ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some  
 true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.  
 to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.  
 pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. One License A-729021  
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

## 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 7:24-37** *In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.<sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.<sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.<sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.<sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

<sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Mark Kubo

# Hymn: "Healer of Our Every Ill"

ELW#612

*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is  
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

*Refrain*

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Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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## **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**

## **Offering**

**Offertory 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

## **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you, **And also 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 God our thanks and praise**

## **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 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.**

## **Holy Communion**

**Hymns** “*How Firm a Foundation*” ELW 796

“*Rock of All Ages*” ELW 623

“*Come, Thou Almighty King*” ELW 408

## **Post Communion Blessing & Prayer**

### **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 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW #886

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,  
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
 sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
 O fallen human race!  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 be now and ever giv'n  
 by saints below and saints above,  
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 One License A-729021



## **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**, September 5<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

**Wednesday** September 8<sup>th</sup> 10-2 Ruth Circle quilters meet in the basement. Bring your own lunch.

**Thursday** 10 am... Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom.

1:00 pm Worship Service at the Manor

### **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.

### **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+

**September Prayer Partner:** Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church, Wales

**September Mission Support:** Prisoners for Christ; Woodinville, Washington Prisoners for Christ is a ministry to adults and juveniles in jails and prisons. They provide church services, Bibles studies and classes, concerts, and mentoring. Their outreach extends throughout the Pacific Northwest, across the United States, and around the world.

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Dry Cereal

**Prayers for Health & Healing:** Roald Norheim, Randy and Shannon Payne, Joseph Tagaban, Gary Putnam, Pam Krieter, Lois Deboer, Dean Haltiner, Andy Carlisle, Sharon Wikan, Lon Mariferen, 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



**Tuesday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>:** Bev Siercks  
**Wednesday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Vivian Hjort  
**Thursday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Neil Lombard  
**Friday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>:** Terri Swanson

### 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 August Month to Date \$34,873  
 Offering year to date \$148,225  
 Monthly General Budget \$20,162

**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!



**Coffee Order** Get in your Mt. Meru coffee orders to Grant Trask. 772-3775 or [trask@gci.net](mailto:trask@gci.net)

<b>Thank you Volunteers</b>	This Week: Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Next Week: Sept 12 <sup>h</sup>
Musician	Sue Paulsen	Lila Trask
Reader	Mary Thompson	
Counter	Polly Koeneman	Better Rogers
Coffee Crew	Last Name: A-E	Last Name: F-K
Video	Don Bieber	Jim Roberts 15

# GOSPEL MESSAGE—September 5, 2021

## Wrestling with God

At first glance, the gospel this week rankles a bit. What is Jesus doing to this poor woman in his interaction with her? Is he insulting her, calling her and her daughter “dogs”? Is he practicing racism, holding out the people of Israel as more deserving of his attention? Is he making her “earn” her daughter’s healing and salvation? Certainly not. The scriptures clearly testify that Jesus is without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

But scripture also testifies to several instances when individuals wrestle with God, the promises God gives, and the faith needed to trust them. Jacob (Genesis 32:22-32), Job, Mary and Martha (John 11:1-44), and Peter (Acts 10:9-23) are but a few examples of individuals in the Bible who tussle with God and God’s call on their lives.

This week’s passage is similar. Jesus does not mock the Syrophenician woman; rather, he engages her. He pushes back against her initial request in order to draw out of her an even stronger confession of faith. She is no longer just a desperate mother hoping against hope, but a woman of faith who knows deep in her soul that all people—even Gentiles, even her daughter, even she herself—are beloved and fed by God.

We too can have experiences like this woman, and the others throughout scripture, did. We live through events or seasons that force us to confront the God who loves us, who has created and redeemed us.

At times you may have found yourself wrestling with God, demanding blessings, challenging truth, promising devotion, fighting for every last ounce of faith to get you through. These situations are not always immediately pleasant. But take heart—the Holy Spirit promises to bring you through to the other side, faith intact and blessings bestowed. May you be “astounded beyond measure” (Mark 7:37) at the works of the Lord.

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**Next Week’s Readings:** Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9,  
James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

### **Petersburg Lutheran Church**

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