

Come As You Are Worship
May 15, 2025 - 6:30pm

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship Leader: Matt Hunt

Words of Welcome

Here we strive to be the hands, heart, and voice of God in the community. As such, we practice radical hospitality as Jesus did. You are welcome with us regardless of race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, political affiliation, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We reject hate in all its forms and repent of the historical mistreatment of all marginalized communities. We are committed to racial equity and inclusion.

The building of St. Peter's is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, and we give thanks for their presence here. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

As part of our commitment to hospitality, we strive to be a safe place to accompany you on your faith journey. It is ok to have questions and doubts as part of that journey. Here we grow and learn together. We invite you to join us as we love others as Jesus first loved us.

Confession and Forgiveness

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day.

Some of my sin I know—

**the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—
but some is known only to you.**

In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness.

Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ,
in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

Psalmody

Psalm 56

¹Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
²my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.
O Most High, ³when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
⁴In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?
⁵All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
⁶They stir up strife, they lurk,
they watch my steps.
As they hoped to have my life,
⁷so repay them for their crime;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
⁸You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?
⁹Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.
¹⁰In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise,
¹¹in God I trust; I am not afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me?
¹²My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.
¹³For you have delivered my soul from death,
and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

Readings

Isaiah 66:1-2

¹Thus says the Lord:
Heaven is my throne
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is my resting place?
²All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things are mine,
says the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look,
to the humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word.

Acts 1:15-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it’;

and

‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from

which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel: Luke 6:12-16

¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Reflection

Gospel Canticle

The song of Simeon may be sung or said.

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.
Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Our gracious, eternal God, we thank you for the challenges which life brings. It also brings changes which sometimes throws us into crisis. Be with us in such times in our Christian community. Like the early disciples help us in our common life to find your guidance in our collective decisions.

Help us to approach our decisions seeking your guidance through prayer.
Help us to examine our own hearts for any unseemly motives.
Help us to focus on the common good and not be driven by our own selfish interests.

Help us to seek consensus and never be satisfied with power plays and divisiveness.

Help us all to share in our mutual ministry.

Lead us forward and help us to create a community where love, acceptance,

and mutuality are expressed, where joy abounds, and where results are achieved because we are all working hand in hand together. May it be said of us as it was said of old: "See how those Christians love one another."

We ask that you would save us from ever being a cloistered cell which seeks escape from our world. Instead, open the windows of our souls to the world and its needs. Send us forth to herald the good news of Jesus, to be your servants to those in need, to visit the sick and the imprisoned, to remember the forgotten in our society, and to work for justice and peace. Use our varied gifts so that as Peter suggested we all might do our fair share in this ministry. Bolster us in moments when we feel inadequate for the task and give us courage. **Amen.**

— written by Richard J. Einerson, from his collection of prayers, Prayers of the People. <http://www.richardeinerson.com/>

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

**Now in peace I will lie down and sleep;
you alone, O God, make me secure.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Additional materials for daily prayer are available in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pp. 295-331) and may supplement this simple order.

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