



# ST. PETER'S

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
OCTOBER 1, 2023



**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation***Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word*

1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 8:00 &amp; 10:30 am

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304  
 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302  
 Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** Rejoice in Christ's full and free forgiveness!*Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastor.*

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 or FM 100.7 Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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**HOLY COMMUNION** Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason, we respectfully request that all of those who are not members **please speak with the pastor before communing** with us. Thank you.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, by your Spirit and your word. When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way; grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die. Amen.

**SERVICE THEME***A Story of Spiritual Insincerity***ORDER OF WORSHIP***Setting Three | 188-203**As we learn this third setting of The Service, we'll speak most of the liturgy. Then in time, we'll add more elements of the service, usually by hearing or singing one new part of the liturgy.***OPENING HYMN***Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | 496 v. 1, 5-6***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.*

The word of the LORD came to me.

<sup>2</sup>What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

<sup>25</sup>But you say, "The LORD's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? <sup>26</sup>If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

<sup>27</sup>But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. <sup>29</sup>But the house of Israel says, "The LORD's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. <sup>31</sup>Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain

a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel?  
<sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God.  
So repent and live!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ADULT CHOIR IN 8:00 SERVICE**

*“Sing to the Lord, Rejoice”*  
by Hal Hopson

Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord, sing, rejoice!  
God’s love is steadfast, ever true. God is faithful from age to age.  
O Zion, sing, rejoice!  
The Lord brings peace to Zion’s hill. God’s word goes out to all the land.  
All earth rejoice and sing. All earth rejoice and sing.

**INSPIRATION IN 10:30 SERVICE**

*“Open My Heart”*  
by Dale Witte

*Refrain: Open my heart through your Spirit, Lord.  
Open my eyes as I read your Word.  
Open my mind to know your will.  
Open my hands to share your love.*

My heart is broken, Lord, as I read your Law.  
Your heart is heavy with my sin.  
Create in me, O God, a pure heart within.  
Set my heart on you. *Refrain*

My eyes are always closed, looking out for me.  
Your eyes are saddened to see my sin.  
Focus my outlook on you and let me see the cross.  
Seeing with eyes full of faith. *Refrain*

My mind is so confused with the noise of this world.  
Your mind is steadfast; it does not change.  
Fix my mind on you,  
that I may trust in you and have peace at last. *Refrain*

My hands are tightly closed, ready to fight for me.  
Your hands were opened and pierced with nails.  
Open my hands in prayer; help me hold on to you,  
working for you all my days. *Refrain*

**SECOND LESSON**

Philippians 2:1-11

*Moved by Christ’s love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the selflessness and humility of Jesus.*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup>but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**Your words are my joy and my heart’s delight.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:23-32

*Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.*

When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things?” and “Who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

They discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are

afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet.”<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” He said to them, “Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things.”<sup>28</sup> What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’<sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.<sup>30</sup> He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go.<sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”<sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* | **705**

**“Sincere Faith Comes from Heaven”**

*Pastor Boehringer*

**NICENE CREED & PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*pages 196-198*

**GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING**

**THE SACRAMENT**

*pages 199-203*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Abide with Me* | **783**  
*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* | **704**

**THANKSGIVING & BLESSING**

*page 203*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Christ Be My Leader* | **518**

**ORGANIST:** David Koepsell

**GREETERS:** 8:00 ~ Travis & Brindah Birkholz, Carley & Mia  
10:30 ~ Sue Repp