

Order of Service – September 1, 2024, 10:00 AM - 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching & Presiding: Pastor Bart

Music Team: Merry Jo, Brock & Chris

Welcome to worship!

If you are a visitor today, please pick up a gift bag and learn more about our programs at the Welcome Table at the back of the narthex. Grab a coffee and mingle following the service. A family friendly area is available in the Gateway to sit with other parents or to allow your children to enjoy some snacks following the worship service and Sunday school. If your children require a quiet place during the service, feel free to take them to the narthex near the fireplace area or into the Gateway Room where we have few quiet toys for them to enjoy.

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to come forward for communion. If your children have gone through communion instruction, they are welcome as well. If they are not taking communion, please bring them forward for a blessing. If you would like personal prayer this morning, you are invited to meet with our prayer team in the narthex either before or after you have taken communion. Individual prayer is also available following the service.

Today's worship service, including our children's time is live streamed and recorded for future viewing on St. Peter's YouTube channel. Sitting further back out of the filming area is an option.

OPENING HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty LBW 543 V 1,2 & 4

LIGHTING THE CANDLES • WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

All: Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we invite your presence into our worship this morning and consecrate this time to you. Be glorified in the preaching, in the singing, our praying and our meditation on your word. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus, to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

P: If we say that 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]

P: Most merciful God...

All: We confess that we are in bondage 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **and also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY 15th Sunday after Pentecost

All: O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHILDREN'S STORY: Pastor Bart

CHILDREN'S SONG: SWING THAT MIGHTY SWORD

CHORUS

Put on the full armour of God
So you can take a stand.
Put on the full armour of God
So you can stand your ground.
(Repeat)

You will stand firm with the belt of truth
And keep the breastplate of righteousness firmly in place.
Then swing that mighty sword,
The word of God.

(CHORUS)

And with your boots of readiness
That come from the gospel of peace, you'll be at peace,
So swing that mighty sword.
Swing that mighty sword of the spirit.
Swing that mighty sword,
The word of God.

Take up your shield of faith so you won't be burned
By the arrows of the evil one.
Take up your shield of faith. No you won't be burned,
For the battle is already won!
Trust the protection of the Helmet of Salvation.
Trust in the Living God!

(CHORUS x 2)

Then swing that mighty sword.
Swing that mighty sword of the spirit.
Swing that mighty sword,
The word of God.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 NIV

4 Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. **2** Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." **7** What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? **8** And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

PSALM 119:129-136 NIV

129 Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.

132 Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

134 Redeem me from human oppression, that I may obey your precepts.

135 Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees.

136 Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.

Hymn: The Law of the Lord

The law of the lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The law of the lord can be trusted, making me whole.

The law of the lord is so right and brings joy to my heart

The law of the lord is clear; gives my live a place to start

For the law of God is pure and true

My sins he can sever

More precious, more sweet, then gold and honey

His rewards go on forever, and ever, and ever, and ever.

His rewards go on forever.

(Repeat)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20 NIV

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel

of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:14-23 NIV

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." [¹⁶][a]

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

²⁰ He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

PRE-SERMON SONG: REFINERS FIRE

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold

CHORUS

Refiner's fire: My heart's one desire is to be holy, Set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for You my Master; Ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

CHORUS

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SERMON: Pastor Bart

OFFERTORY HYMN: Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
You are the Potter, I am the clay!
Mould me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power all power surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you.

All: 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.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.**

Hymn: Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship to sing the song of ages to the Lamb,
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all, All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions, Your name stands above them all,

Chorus 1

And the angels cry, Holy. All creation cries Holy.
You are lifted high, Holy, Holy forever.

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

Chorus 1

And the angels cry, Holy. All creation cries Holy.
You are lifted high, Holy, Holy forever.

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing, Holy, To the King of Kings, Holy.
You will always be Holy, Holy forever.

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all, All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions, Your name stands above them all,
Jesus, Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all, All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions, Your name stands above them all,

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

You will always be Holy
Holy forever

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SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please see below for details)

CLOSING HYMN: What A Friend

Everybody has trials and temptations. Everybody knows heart break isolation.
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down.

CHORUS

What a friend we have in Jesus. East to west, my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon. And forever and ever His heart is my home.

Everybody has fears, everybody has worries. Everybody knows sorrow, devastation.
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down.

CHORUS

No more betrayal for He is faithful. He fills me up and my cup runneth over.
No more betrayal for He is faithful. How He has proven it over and over .
No more betrayal for He is faithful. He fills me up and my cup runneth over.
No more betrayal for He is faithful. How He has proven it over and over (over and oh).

CHORUS x 2

What a friend we have in Jesus. East to west, my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon. And forever and ever His heart is my home.

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THE SENDING

P: Go in Peace.
C: Serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CHURCH OPEN OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Rick: Mon, 9 AM-12 noon
Tim: Mon & Tues, 1 PM-3:30 PM
Pastor Bart: Wed, 1-4 PM
Staff Meeting: Wed, 9-10AM

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE:

Sept. 1 – Sun, 10 AM Worship
Sept. 8 – Sun, 10 AM Worship - Rally Day (Lunch to Follow)

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN ADVANCE:

Sept. 12 –Thu, 7 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir Information Evening
Sept 12– Thu, 7 PM *The Project: Survey of the Bible*, Small Group in the Gateway
Sept. 14 – Sat, 8 AM Men's Breakfast
Sept. 15 – Sun, 10 AM Worship and Coffee
Sept. 18 – Wed, 9:30 AM *Hammer of God*, Small Group Study
Sept. 18 – Wed, 1:30 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir (first rehearsal)
Sept. 20 & 21 (Fri / Sat) Steven Bell Workshop
Sept. 22 – Sun, 10 AM Worship and Coffee (Sunday School Begins)
Sept. 24 – Tues, 10 AM *Lyrics of Life: Study of the Psalms* – Women's Bible Study in the Gateway
Sept. 24 – Tues, 7 PM The Cabin, Men's Discussion Group (Pastor Rick's home)
Sept. 25 – Wed, 1:30 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir
Sept. 26 – Thur, 10 Am Genesis Bible Study with Pastor Paul (Downstairs)
Sept. 29 – Sun, 10 AM Worship and Coffee
Oct. 1 – Mon, 6 PM Care Ministry Information Evening

PRAYER FOR ST. PETER'S:

Please remember to keep praying for the church, our pastors, leaders, members and their families.

Missions Update

Your generous donations of “toonies for toy swords’ on August 4th enabled us to also give \$172.40, (through Daniel Wagner’s partnership) to Father of Hope Ministries in Uganda. It paid for school fees and exam fees that were in arrears for 8 children. See their photos and Pastor Benon’s letter of appreciation on the Missions bulletin board. Thank you all so much!

RALLY DAY – Sunday, September 8 @ 10 AM

Under the theme of **Grow and Serve**, you are invited to participate in all of our Rally Day festivities. It all begins with worship at 10 AM. Come downstairs following the service. Speak to a council member at one of EIGHT stations as you enjoy your lunch. You’ll find your “station” alphabetically, using your last name. Please fill out the *Gifting Survey* (Take it home or fill it out during your time). You will notice people wondering around with clip boards and bright colored name tags. These are leaders of programs, both learning and serving opportunities that you can speak directly with and sign up immediately if you wish. At the stations, you can also pick up an extensive promotional piece on all the growing and serving opportunities available at St. Peter’s this fall where you will find the details contact information of the variety of opportunities. And don’t forget to drop by the photo booth (located in the pre-school/kindergarten room) to get your photo taken by Wendi Forster for our updated church directory. Take the form with you that is available at one of the eight stations. See you there! Bring a friend!

GOOD VIBES MEMORY CHOIR – An Information Meeting – Thursday, September 12 at 7 PM

Do you know people with dementia? This is an opportunity to reach out to them and let them know that your church cares about them and their family members. St. Peter’s is pleased to host **Good Vibes Memory Choir** beginning this fall – a choir for people with dementia, their care partner, students and volunteers. Join Erica for this choir as a volunteer and let people you know who are on a journey with dementia that this is available for them starting September 18, 1:30-3pm every Wednesday. Why not bring them along to the information meeting where Erica will present her vision for Good Vibes and her experience with the 6 dementia choirs she directed in Victoria. For more information, go to: www.goodvibesmemorychoir.com or speak with Erica directly.

FOR THE JOURNEY – with Steve Bell – September 20 and 21

There may be a few tickets remaining for this. Don’t miss out on one of the 100 tickets available. This amazing musical and teaching event will take place on Friday, September 20 from 7:30-9:00 and Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. You can go to stevebell.com and look under “Events” to find the registration page for the event hosted at St. Peter’s. Speak with Robin Smith or Tim in the office if you need help with the registration.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are many groups that would love to have you join them as they delve into scripture and enjoy the fellowship with each other. There are NINE different weekly, bi-weekly or monthly groups available to help you grow in your faith. Pick up a promotional brochure on Rally Day. Let’s connect, learn and enjoy being with one another.

MEN’S RETREAT – November 1-2, 2024, at River’s Edge Bible Camp

Pastor Rick, along with other men, have met to discuss options for the men’s fall ministry program. You will learn more about these on Rally Day. We’d really encourage you to commit to our Men’s Annual Retreat. Our theme is **STAYIN’ ALIVE**. Our speaker is Dr. Steven Hein from ILT (Institute of Lutheran Theology) and is one of our CALC seminary professors. We are going to dig deep into what it means to be a follower of Jesus as a man of faith. Be challenged, inspired and equipped to pick up your role as a man of God in a postmodern world as Dr. Hein takes us deep into a refreshing understanding of Baptism, Battle and Calling. Don’t miss this amazing opportunity to learn from Dr. Hein. Put it in your calendar. More info to come.