

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church



**Time After Pentecost  
September 27, 2026**

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **GATHERING**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**C** Amen.

**P** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Compassionate God,

**C** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P** Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**C** Amen.

#### **THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #526 - End of bulletin**

**"God Is Here!"**

#### **GREETING**

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

**C** And also with you.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

### **FIRST READING** – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### **PSALM 25:1-9**

P To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**C O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

P Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

P Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**C Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**C Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

P He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**C Amen.**

### **SECOND READING** – Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or

conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD!

#### Gospel Acclamation

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, using this acclamation, a sung alleluia, or another appropriate song.*



#### HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 21:23-32

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, "I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY #772 - End of bulletin**

**“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”**

**THE SERMON – Pastor Johnson**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C 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**

**A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.**

*A brief silence.*

**A Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Prayers continue...*

**P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.**

**C Amen.**

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A God of creation,**

**C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**P Lift up your hearts.**

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

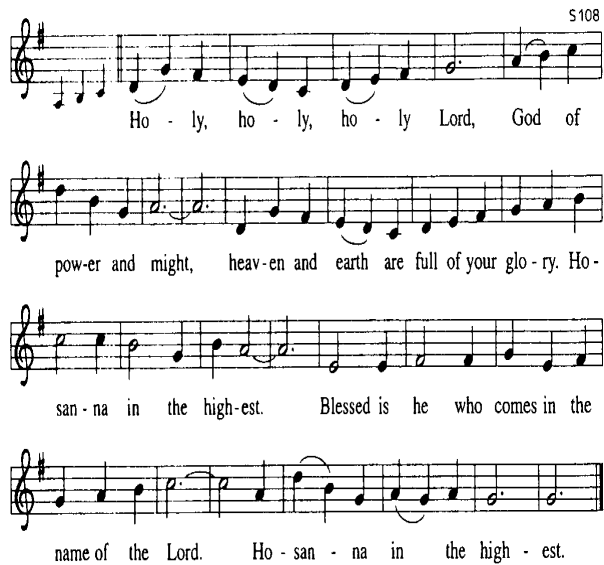
**P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface It is indeed.....**

## “Holy, Holy, Holy...”

S108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

**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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.

## LAMB OF GOD

S112



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION**

We invite all baptized Christians who share our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to receive the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood truly present in this Blessed Sacrament.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.  
C **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **THE BLESSING**

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.  
C **Amen.**  
P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.  
C **Amen.**  
P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #534 - *End of bulletin***

**“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”**

### **DISMISSAL**

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### **POST-SERVICE MUSIC**

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of

praise and prayer; may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

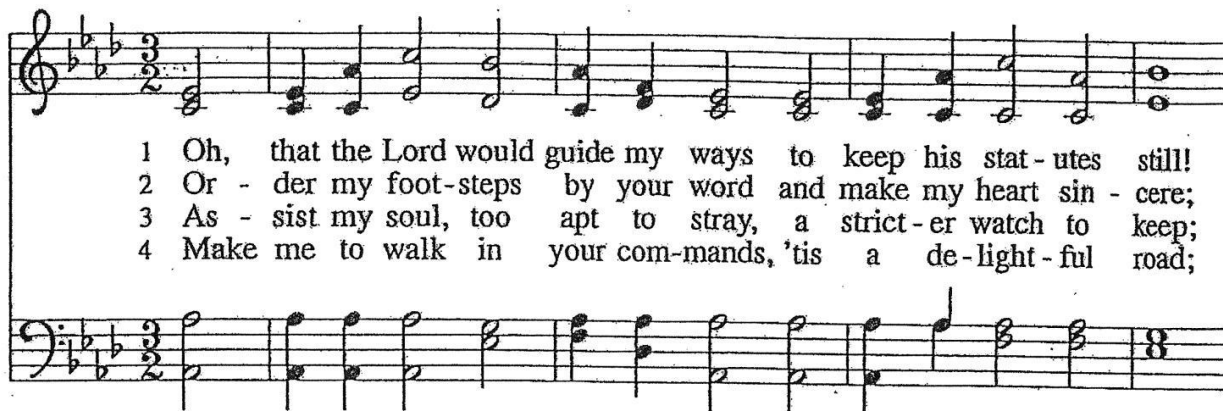
what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

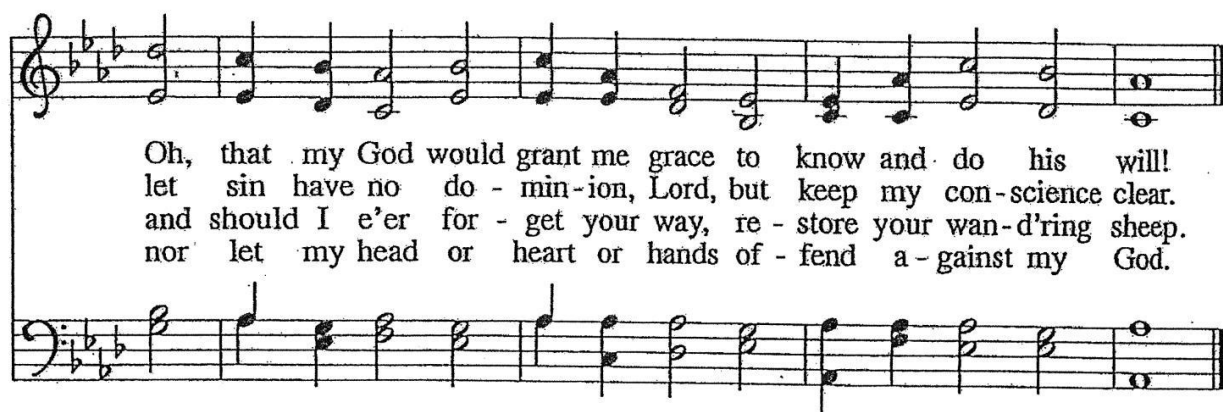
Hymn #526 - Page 2

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new-ness and re-new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 772 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
 call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.