

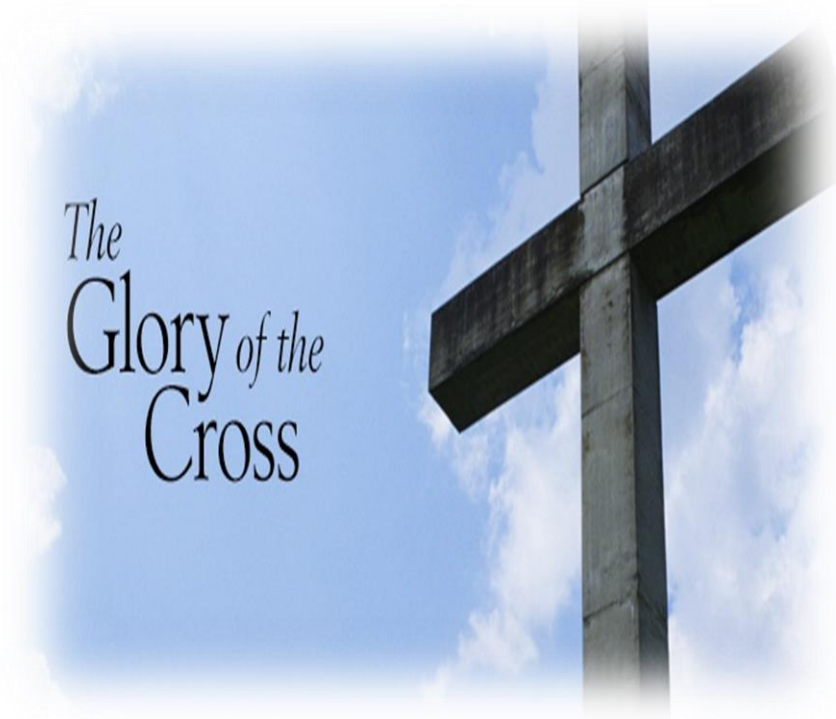
Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pastor Jesse Stern

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he's happy to meet with you. Thanks!

Organic Word † Hybrid Worship † Local Work

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 2018

In the name of Jesus, who does all things well, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Whether this is your first time with us or Peace is your church home, we're glad you're here! If you :



- ... have questions, please ask; we'll do our best to answer;
- ... need the restrooms, they're down the hall past the office;
- ... brought your children, thank you (Jesus loves having them here, too!);
- ... can stick around after worship, we'd love to chat over coffee & snacks;
- ... would like to talk to Pastor, please give him a call (720.315.0910)

To adore the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*I Corinthians 14:33, 40*), our service path is printed in this booklet. Today, hearts are strengthened for service as we remember our Lord's promise that, *"everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope"* (*Romans 15:4*), and consider the service theme:

Close to the Cross

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Video Magazine : The WELS Connection

This brief snippet highlights the work we do as a church body (a "synod") to train the next generation of public servants. With a clear focus on the big need for pastors, it emphasizes the blessing of vicars in mission settings.

The Greeting and Invocation

Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless and be with them (Mt. 18:20); that's why we call on ("invoke") his name and magnify the praise of the One, true God.

Minister : In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All : **Amen!**

A Confession of our Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship service reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've fallen short of God's demands, and focuses us on our need for a Savior.

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins and our deep need for forgiveness.

Our Lord's Absolution

For the sake of the Son, the Father has forgiven all our sins! It's the pastor's joy to proclaim and assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins and from all of your guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

Response : The Kyrie

“Kyrie eleison” is Greek for “Lord, have mercy.” Happily, we have already received the mercy of God’s forgiveness; but this response asks for mercy for our lives as we follow him and culminates with a song of praise.

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy; for the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil; for the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

Amen!

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

You crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;

You make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,

You came to live with us; you made your Father known;

You washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Our Prayer in the Joy of Forgiveness

This confident petition, known as the Prayer of the Day, rejoices in our good and gracious King and in all that he has so wondrously done as it pulls our hearts and minds to his throne of grace and asks for his blessing.

Eternal LORD, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work. Hear us, Lord, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

After this prayer, the children are invited forward for a devotion geared toward their hearts (any 'non-kids' are welcome to listen in & pay attention to the lesson, too!).

A Reading from Isaiah 50:4-10 (this translation is the NIV84)

Jesus is the perfect Savior—wonderful gospel! But Jesus is also the perfect example of endurance through suffering — that's wonderful gospel, too — especially as suffering pulls our hearts back to God's promises for us in Christ!

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; and I have not been rebellious, I have not drawn back. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷**Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced.**

Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me!

⁹**It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.** Who will condemn me? They

Point to Ponder:

Isaiah portrays the low-glory of the Messiah as the Christ forlorn but not forsaken.

How is that:

- fulfilled Jesus?
- a hope-source in our trials?

will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant?

Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

This is God's Word.

Sung Response : Fight the Good Fight (red hymnal, 457, vv. 1-3)

God has never promised a life of ease on this side of eternity; but he has promised a grace sufficient that works all things to his glory and our good. These initial stanzas impress the deep encouragement to stay close to the cross.



***Fight the good fight, with all your might;
Christ is your strength and Christ your light.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.***

***Run the straight race, through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.***

***Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life and Christ its love.***

Statement of Faith: The Nicene Creed

This statement of faith ("creed") is polemic, meaning it was written to defend against false doctrine that attacked Jesus a True God and True Man. As we confess our faith, let's note the "God for us in all things" emphasis.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 8:27-35 (this translation is the NIV84)

The Christ-confession is a beautiful statement of faith that seems easy . . . until it costs us. And, in love for us, Jesus reminds us that it will cost us; but how elegant when our struggles draw us closer to his cross!

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, **“Who do people say I am?”**

²⁸They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, **“You are the Christ.”**

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. **“You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”**

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord.



Faint not nor fear; his arms are near.

He changes not, and you are dear.

Only believe, and you will see

That Christ is Lord eternally.

Point to Ponder:

Mark's Gospel highlights Jesus as the powerful Son of God.

How is that emphasis on display in these words? How is it hidden?

A Sermon Founded on I Peter 4:12-16, 19 (this translation is the NIV84)

The truth is hard for us to acknowledge, but it's an important one: the life of the Christian is hard – there will be trails, sufferings, crosses. But, even still, we're not without hope; in fact, hearts rejoice to count on the cross!

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you

participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

ALWAYS COUNT ON THE CROSS

My sermon notes regarding . . .

*Context & insights
to these specific verses:*

*Connection to my heart
via that which shows me
both my sin (Law) &
my Savior (Gospel):*

*Call to action in
ways these truths apply
to my daily life:*

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); if you’re blessed to support Peace with an offering – tangibly here or electronically at peacelutheranboulder.org – thank you! As we carry on our Lord’s work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!

After today’s offering is collected and while an anthem plays in the background, please feel free to pin your own personal prayer/prayer-request to the cross by the pulpit.

A note to worshippers about the practice of “Member Communion” :



As we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s Supper, we respectfully ask that guests to Peace would please speak with Pastor Stern before coming to Communion. This practice is not an attempt to judge the heart of anyone, but it does stem from the Bible’s stress on the importance of a clear understanding of what this Supper is (I Cor. 11), as well as the importance of the clear, outward confession of unity it confesses (I Cor. 10, et al.). Please understand this is done in loving respect for our Lord and for all people; and, please do feel free to speak with Pastor if you have any questions about it.

In the meanwhile, thank you for understanding and respecting the importance of our Lord’s commands; be assured that, though we might not yet gather together at the Lord’s Table, all of your sins are forgiven in the Gospel message!

Our Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

This prayer summarizes the needs and thanksgivings we’ve considered so far, approaches Heaven’s Throne on behalf of those connected to our hearts and concludes with the prayer our Savior taught.

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son’s body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send

the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

A moment to offer today's prayer requests & a moment of silence to offer our own, private prayers.

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.

The Sacrament (also found on page 21 in the red hymnal)

This portion of today's worship service prepares our hearts to receive our Savior via his Supper. In such a special way, he dares to meet with us and refresh us in grace and, for that, our hearts rejoice and give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his

children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Sung Response : The Sanctus (from page 34 in the front part of the red hymnal)

“Sanctus” is a Latin word for “holy.” This song, which blends the angels’ accolades in Isaiah 6 with the shout of the crowds in Matthew 21, proclaims that the Lord alone is holy and that he has come to set his people free.



Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glory.

The Consecration, Distribution, and Reception of the Lord’s Supper

*The pastor speaks the Words of Institution, not as a magical formula, but “as a **prayer** that the Lord may do what he’s promised . . . as a **confession** that the body and blood of Christ are present in the Sacrament, and as an **invitation** to the communicants to make Jesus’ promise their own through faith” (God So Loved the World, 505).*

In Holy Communion God gives us a unique opportunity to publicly display our unity of faith as well as our forgiveness of one another. He also gives us a tangible reassurance that it was his body and blood – not ours – which paid the ransom price for the world’s sins and sealed our salvation. With joy in our hearts and with hearts prepared to receive him, we hear and remember the words our Savior spoke:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, **“Take and eat; this is**

my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **“Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen!

Sung Response : The Agnus Dei (from page 35 in the front part of the red hymnal)

“Agnus Dei” is a Latin phrase that means “Lamb of God.” This sung petition proclaims with John the Baptist that Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed once for all, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).



***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen!***

No hymn will be sung during the distribution of the Lord’s Supper. Instead, worshippers may find it wise to self-examine their own hearts using the Personal Preparation for Holy Communion outline found on page 156 in the front part of the red hymnals and/or the Spirit Inspired of Psalm 111.

Communicant hearts which prefer to abstain from regular wine can please note that the center 8 cups of the individual tray contain a wine that is alcohol-free.

Song of Thanksgiving : Thank the Lord (from page 36 in the front of the red hymnal)

The simple statements of this quick hymn summon our alleluias and praise as we continue to rejoice in the saving love of the only saving God. Refreshed in his goodness, we are also strengthened to declare his praise with joy.



Thank the Lord and sing his praise.

Tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy

With shouts of thanksgiving

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Concluding Prayer and Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, and his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, and to give us peace (Numbers 6).

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world; that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again; and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever!

Amen!

Sisters and brothers, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor (†) and give you peace.

Amen!

Final Song : Day by Day (blue hymnal, 765)

On the hearts of Christians, God's promises-big are always met with our praises-big. These final stanza keep us mindful that, although we carry a cross for the sake of Jesus, we're blessed and he leads us home – day by day!



*Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.*

*Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold your face.*

*Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me
I will reach at last the promised land.*

This Week for Peace Lutheran:

Today (9/16):

- 10:30a – coffee & snacks on the patio
- 11:00a – quarterly congregational meeting (all welcome)

Saturday (9/22):

- 9:00a – church clean-up day (thanks for the help!)

Sunday (9/23): *please remember to invite others*

- 8:30a – *Timely Topics; Timeless Truths* Bible Class
- 9:30a – Worship (musician: Katie Mueller;
guest preacher: Pastor Phil Hirsch)
- 10:30a – Coffee & snacks on the patio
- No *Pieces of Peace* Bible Class (Pastor Stern is out of town)



Notes for the Next Weeks:

September winds down quickly and unquietly. Let's please, please, please recognize that we have:

- Opportunity to rejoice in God's grace and peace (every day)
- Opportunity to worship with our family of believers (every Sunday)
- Opportunity to invite others to learn more about Jesus (every Sunday)
- Opportunity to serve our community via the Fall Fest (Sept. 29)
- Opportunity to get together over a BBQ (Sept. 30; at the Sterns)
- Opportunity to please help get ready for the Drop-in Center season

Next Week's Service Theme:

Following Full-Heartedly

Next Week's Scripture Readings *(the likely sermon lesson):*

Jeremiah 11:18-20 † James 3:13-18 † Mark 9:30-37 † Psalm 31