

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2025

9:00 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #424 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

- 1. Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones, raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!" Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs, arch angels, virtues, angel choirs: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 2. O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim, lead their praises; "Alleluia!" Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 3. Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest; "Alleluia! Alleluia!" Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant, raise the song: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 4. O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

King Herod had James killed and had Peter put in prison, under heavy guard. In what Peter first believes is only a vision, an angel leads him past unseeing guards, out of the prison, and to freedom.

¹About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Psalm: Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

¹On the holy mountain

stands the city God has founded;

²**the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**

³Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of our God.

⁵**Of the city it shall be said, "Everyone was born in Zion,
and the Most High shall sustain the city."**

⁶Enrolling the nations, the LORD records:
"These also were born there."

⁷**The singers and the dancers will say,
"All my fresh springs are in you."**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Paul has faithfully persevered in the mission the Lord had given to him. Near life's end he rests in the promise of eternal life, confident that the Lord who has rescued him in the past will bring him into the heavenly kingdom.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. *Alleluia.* (Acts 2:32)

The Gospel according to John, starting with the 21st chapter, **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: John 21:15-19

Jesus invites Simon Peter to declare his love for him three times, in a manner reminiscent of the three times that Peter earlier denied Christ. Jesus commissions him to feed his sheep and predicts that he will die as a martyr for God.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #812 "Faith of Our Fathers"

- 1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.**

Refrain: **Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

2. The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free; and blest would be their children's fate if they, like them, should die for thee. Refrain

3. Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife; proclaim thee too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life. Refrain

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Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit
from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me
with your free Spirit.**

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Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion's mouth, rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict (*especially*), and bring justice to each community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick (*especially* Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, the Strand family, and the Tryhus Family). Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries, and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

- 1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wond'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 3. All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

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Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #324 "In The Cross of Christ I Glory"

- 1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2. When the woes of life o'ver-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**
- 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

 **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, the Strand family, and the Tryhus Family.

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