**SALT Sunday Picnic**

## **Peter and Paul Apostles**

## **~ June 29, 2025 ~**

**Gathering**

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: We begin our worship in the name of the God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our comforter.

***C: Amen***

P: We gather in the presence of our God to celebrate the blessings of life.

***C: We gather to respond to the call of God and share our common faith which binds us together as the body of Christ.***

P: Let us worship and give praise to God who calls us to commitment.

***C: God of love, we thank you for the gift of life and the beauty of creation. We worship you. We praise you. We give thanks to you!***

**Gathering Song**

***“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”*** ELW #774

 Vs. 1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting

 arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the

 everlasting arms.

  ***Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

 Vs. 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the

 everlasting arms;
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the

 everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

 Vs. 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting

 arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the

 everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: God, we hear you call to “go” and “tell the world,” but we do not respond. Forgive our lack of courage and commitment. We hear you saying to us, “Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you,” but we even find it difficult to love ourselves. Today we confess that we are

not worthy of your love and ask you to forgive the sin of every area of our life. We desire a new sensitivity to the larger world around us. Open our hearts so we may hear their voices. Open our eyes so we may see their agony. Open our minds so we may understand their needs. Open our hearts so we may become involved. Our God is a great God and has forgiven our sin to set us free. Out of God’s great love for us, Jesus died on the cross and rose on the third day so the gap between us and God could be closed. Our great love for us, God provides for our every need in daily life. Out of great love for us, God gives us the power to respond to the needs of those around us by giving us a new desire to serve. Out of great love for us, our sin is forgiven. We are free.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

**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**

**The Peace**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Almighty God,

***C:*** ***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.***

**Song** ***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*** ELW #733

Vs. 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no

 shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy com-

 passions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

***Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning***

***by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy***

***hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

Vs. 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and

 stars in their courses above join with all nature in

 manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear

 presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright

 hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

 ***[Refrain]***

**First Reading: Acts 12:1-11**

About 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.

6 The 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 87:1-3, 5-7**

1On the holy mount stands the city he 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 God.

**5And of Zion it shall be said, “This one and that one were born in it,” for the Most High himself will establish it.**6The Lord records, as he registers the peoples, “This one was born there.”

7**Singers and dancers alike say, “All my springs are in you.”**

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

**6**As 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.

**17**But 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. **18**The 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: John 21:15-19**

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.”

**Sermon**

**Sermon Song *“Jesus Loves Me”*** ELW #595

Vs. 1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
 little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
 yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.***

Vs. 2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;
 he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. ***Refrain***

**Affirmation of Faith**

***C: I believe God, who has created all life and continues to create new life within me. I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By his life, his death and his resurrection from grave, I can know the true depth of human possibility and experience the true joy of abundant life. I believe the Holy Spirit is present now and always, calling me to faith, giving me gifts, and empowering me for service. I believe the church is the ommunity of faith called to experience the fullness of life through God’s Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Amen.***

**Song *“Blessed Assurance”*** ELW #638

Vs. 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory

 divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his

 blood.

***Refrain:***

***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

Vs. 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my

 sight;
 angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of

 love. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in

 his love. ***[Refrain]***

**Prayers of the People**

 ***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

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

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, SAMs and all the baptized. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul for 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 leadership to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict 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

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.**

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.**

 ***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Offering**

**Offering Song** ***“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*** ELW #779

Vs.1 Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–that

 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but

 now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Vs. 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and

 grace my fears relieved; how precious did that

 grace appear the hour I first believed!

Vs. 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I

 have already come; 'tis grace has brought me

 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Vs. 4 The Lord has promised good to me; his

 word my hope secures; he will my shield and

 portion be as long as life endures.

Vs. 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright

 shining as the sun, we've no less days to

 sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

**Offering Prayer**

P: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Communion Litany**

P: Welcome to the celebration! God supplies for our every need and gives us this meal to share.

***C: God, we thank you for the bread of eternal life.***

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience your presence in bread and wine.

***C: God, we thank you for the bread of eternal life.***

P: And Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. He said to his friends, “Take, eat, this is my body.” Also, he took a cup, filled with fruit of the vine. After thanks, he gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant.”

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

***C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against***

***us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen***

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

**Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep

you in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Post Communion Prayer**

P: Gracious God, in this meal you have rained down the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of your beloved son. So by his promise, bring us to abide him, and he in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Benediction**

P: Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

***C: Amen***

**Sending Song “Soon and Very Soon”**  ELW #439

 Vs.1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

Vs. 2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

Vs. 3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

Vs. 4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we’re are goin' to see the King!

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**