

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Elders: John Cox and Bruce Peterson

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*“Where the Love of Christ is Shared ”*

**Visitors:** Please introduce yourself to the Elders. We hope you will fill out one of our cards in the pew so we can be of service to you.

## August 13, 2023

About the Cover: God returned Job's questions with ones that were too profound for him to comprehend. In the midst of this suffering, God called Job to trust in Him even amid things he could not understand. In Christ, the one through whom all things were made (See John 1:3), God's answer to suffering in our place. The profoundness of His creative power is likewise shown in the depth of His love.



## WHY?

### AS WE GATHER

When children cannot understand why they can't do something, the answer is often, "Because I said so." As they grow up, they may get the answers they seek. Job did not get an answer, but he kept his faith in his Creator. In the Gospel, the disciples cannot understand Jesus' walking on the sea, but when He is in the boat with them, they confess, "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Though we may ask God, "Why?" and Paul in the Epistle says we cannot understand God's reasons, we can confess with our mouths and believe in Christ's resurrection. It is an exercise of the faith God has so graciously given us. Why did He come to earth? He came to save us. In great might He destroyed death itself so that we might live with Him forever. That's why!

### + PREPARATION +

**"Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"**

**LSB 790 sts. 1-4**

### INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation      Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*2 Samuel 22:47; Psalm 18:3, 6, 46*

Leader: The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

**Congregation      and exalted be the God of my salvation.**

Leader: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

**Congregation      and I am saved from my enemies.**

Leader: In my distress I called upon the LORD;

**Congregation      to my God I cried for help.**



Leader: From His temple He heard my voice,  
**Congregation and my cry to Him reached His ears.**

Leader: The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,  
**Congregation and exalted be the God of my salvation.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Leader: Let us consider our unworthiness to come before almighty God and confess our sins to Him in the presence of one another.

We confess, Creator Lord, that like Job, we become angry at times with what You have allowed in our lives and we have wondered why.

**Congregation Forgive our pride and turn us to humbly rely on Your gracious plans for us.**

Leader: We confess, Savior Lord, that unlike Paul, we have neglected people around us who have not accepted Your sacrifice for them.

**Congregation Forgive our self-centeredness and inaction, and move us to tell them the Good News as You provide opportunity.**

Leader: We confess, Spirit of truth, that like Peter, we have failed to trust You in all things and have been overwhelmed by the storms of life.

**Congregation Forgive our weakness of faith and enable us to follow where You lead the way.**

Leader: All things in heaven and earth are under God's rule. His almighty power was shown chiefly in sending His Son into this fallen world to destroy the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Your pride, self-centeredness, weakness of faith, and anything else that would separate you from His great love



have been forgiven for Jesus' sake. As a servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore announce the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation      Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

## **SALUTATION**

Leader:    The Lord be with you.

**Congregation      And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader    Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God,

**Congregation      preserve us from all harm and danger**

Leader    that we, being ready in both body and soul,

**Congregation      may cheerfully accomplish what You want done;**

Leader    through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation      Amen.**

“Hymn Sing”

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Job 38:4–18*

<sup>4</sup>[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,



<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?  
<sup>8</sup>"Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,  
<sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,  
<sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it  
and set bars and doors,  
<sup>11</sup>and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?  
<sup>12</sup>"Have you commanded the morning since your days began,  
and caused the dawn to know its place,  
<sup>13</sup>that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?  
<sup>14</sup>It is changed like clay under the seal,  
and its features stand out like a garment.  
<sup>15</sup>From the wicked their light is withheld,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.  
<sup>16</sup>"Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?  
<sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?  
<sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this."

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL**

Reader Fear the Lord, You His saints,

**People for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

Reader Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**People but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**



## **EPISTLE**

*Romans 10:5–17*

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation** Thanks be to God.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 14:22–33*

**Leader** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

**Congregation** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to



pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn Sing**

**SERMON "A Faith For Troubled Times"**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**Congregation I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**



**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING     Hymn Sing**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader**     Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, that she proclaim the Gospel in the face of turmoil and oppression; for leaders and laity alike, that the Spirit give them courage in their mission to speak the Gospel that many may hear and come to faith; and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we find the unity to which our Lord calls us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation**     **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**     For all who serve in governmental and social positions, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for those who work in industry and commerce, that their efforts be a blessing to all people; and for favorable weather that harvests be bountiful, famine be alleviated, and praise resound to our Creator, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation**     **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**     For those who are unemployed, those who deal with social injustice and discrimination, and those who are hungry and homeless, that they seek God's strength and rely on Him to



meet their needs of body, soul, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation      Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader      For those near and dear to us who call out for relief, renewal, and health, [*including . . .*], that God would hear their prayers and answer according to His great love for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation      Grant us our requests, heavenly Father, for we lift our voices in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

" Taught by Our Lord., Trusting in His promises, We are bold to Pray"

**Congregation      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.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

Leader      The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation      Amen.**



## BENEDICTION

Leader     The Lord bless you and keep you.  
              The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to  
              you.  
              The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
Congregation     Amen.

“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

LSB 924    sts. 1–4

## DISMISSAL

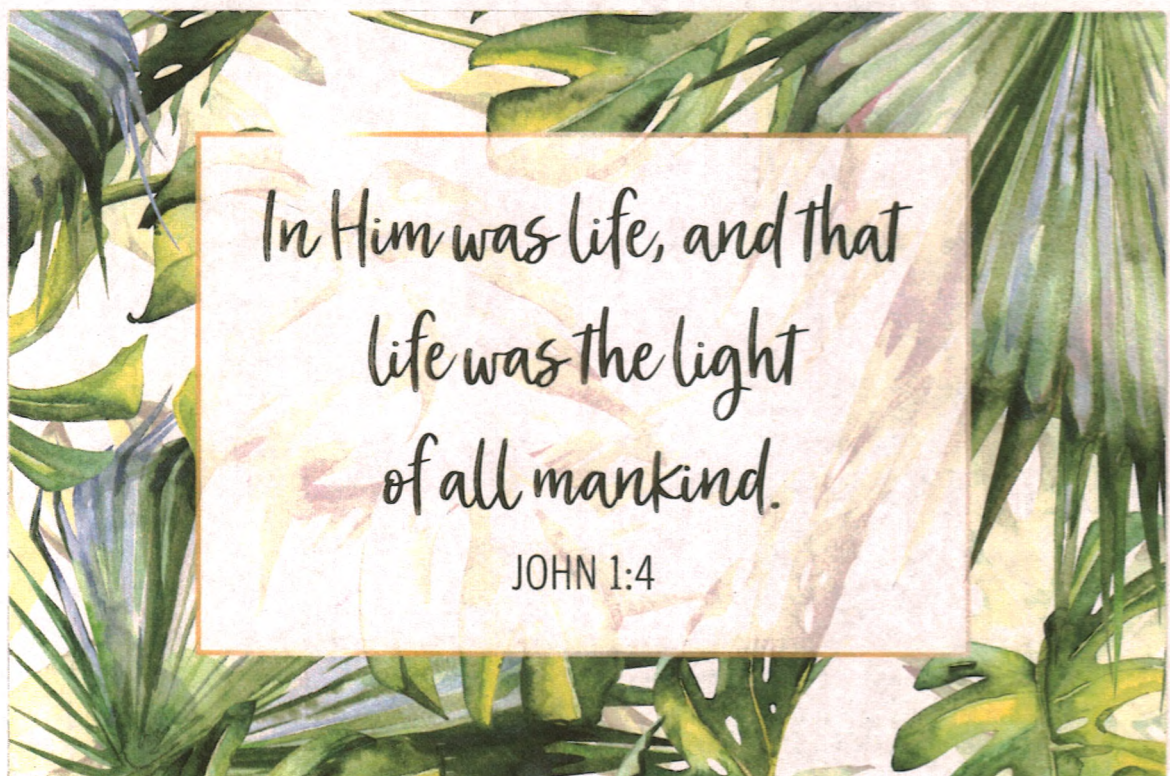
Leader     Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
Congregation     Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## **News and Notes :**



Stephen Ministry – Anyone needing a Stephen Minister please contact Glenn Stocker.

**Congregation Meeting Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of August After Service.**



Sharon Green and Family will be on Vacation August 3<sup>rd</sup> -August 15<sup>th</sup> . Office will be closed August 3<sup>rd</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> .



Men's night out at Tailgaters at 5pm on August 21<sup>st</sup>



# **Membership Covenant**

**In order for the congregation and the Leadership to deal effectively with issues in the congregation, the following guidelines are to be followed:**

- 1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.**
- 2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, leadership, committees, and congregational meetings.**
- 3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to leadership, the leadership person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"**
- 4. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a leadership team member, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next council meeting. The time and date shall be given.**
- 5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the leadership member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the leadership member shall say, "I'm sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments."**
- 6. If permission is given, the leadership member shall report the information/opinion to the leadership team and use the members name.**
- 7. At his/her discretion, a leadership member may ask that the member refer this issue to another member for presentation.**
- 8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the leadership. Action may include: "Received as information," "Pastor and /or President to visit member and report at next meeting," etc.**
- 9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the council and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed. While the covenant uses language regarding the leadership team, the same procedures apply to all boards and committees. May the Spirit give us grace to grow as a healthy congregation**