

The Book of Romans

To Judge or Not to Judge, That is the Question

Time after Pentecost: September 13, 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Two

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church!

If you are a guest with us this morning, we welcome you to fill out a connection card, located in the pew rack. You are welcome to share as much information with us as you are comfortable sharing. Please place the cards in the baskets at the head of the aisle during the Communion distribution.

For Worship, everything you need is included in this bulletin except for the hymns, which are found in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

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.

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

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* **527**

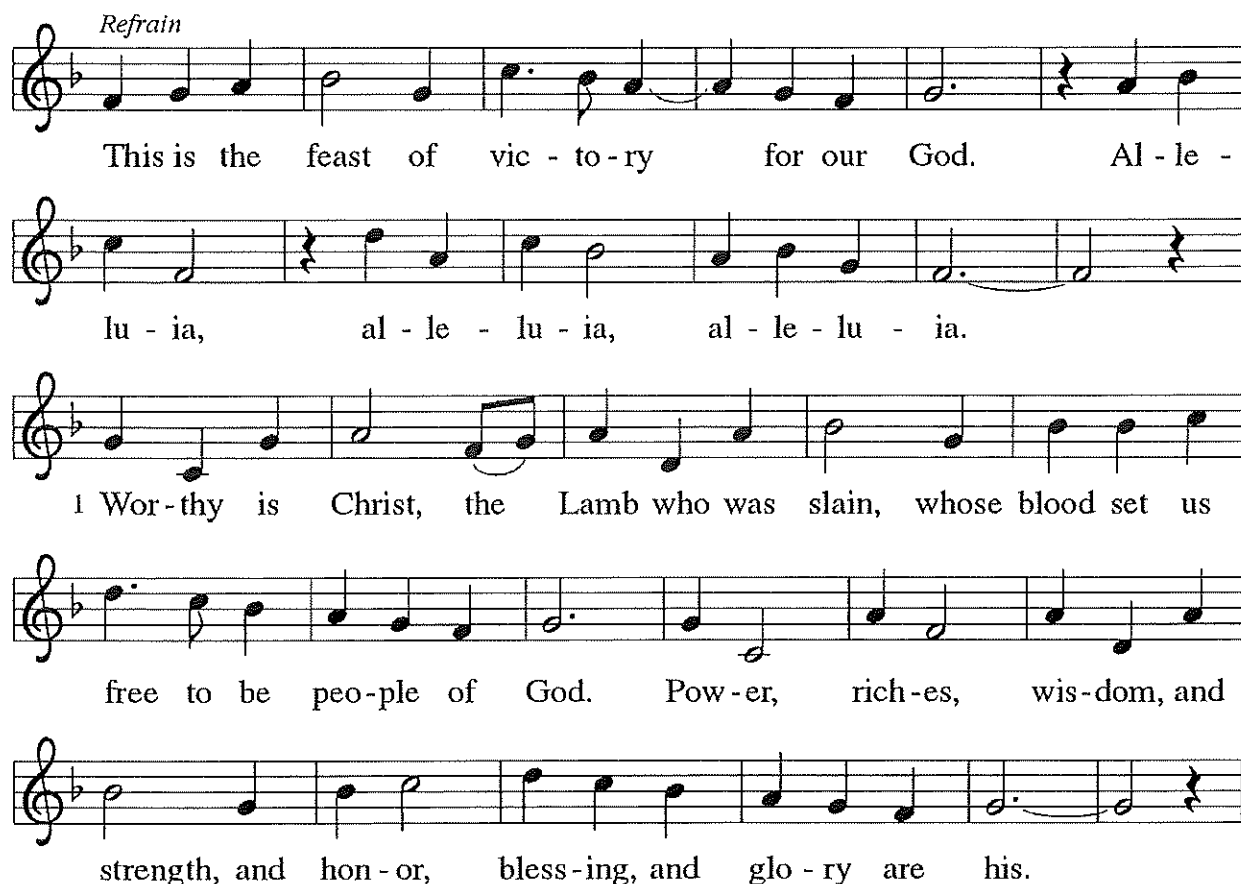
GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:1-13

We sing the refrain, then read the Psalm responsively, singing the refrain where indicated with an "R".



¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;** R
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;** R
- ⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD. R

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both

the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable to God.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven time?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay

you everything.’²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God’s Work. Our Hands.* (inside back cover of hymnal)

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

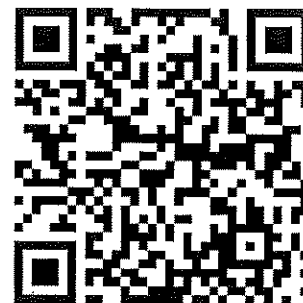
And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

The offering is collected. You can share your tithes and offerings by:

- *Cash or check using envelopes in the pews*
- *Sending a check via your bank's bill pay feature*
- *Using this QR code to give via debit or credit card or to set up automated giving through Vanco.*



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of Creation,

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

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

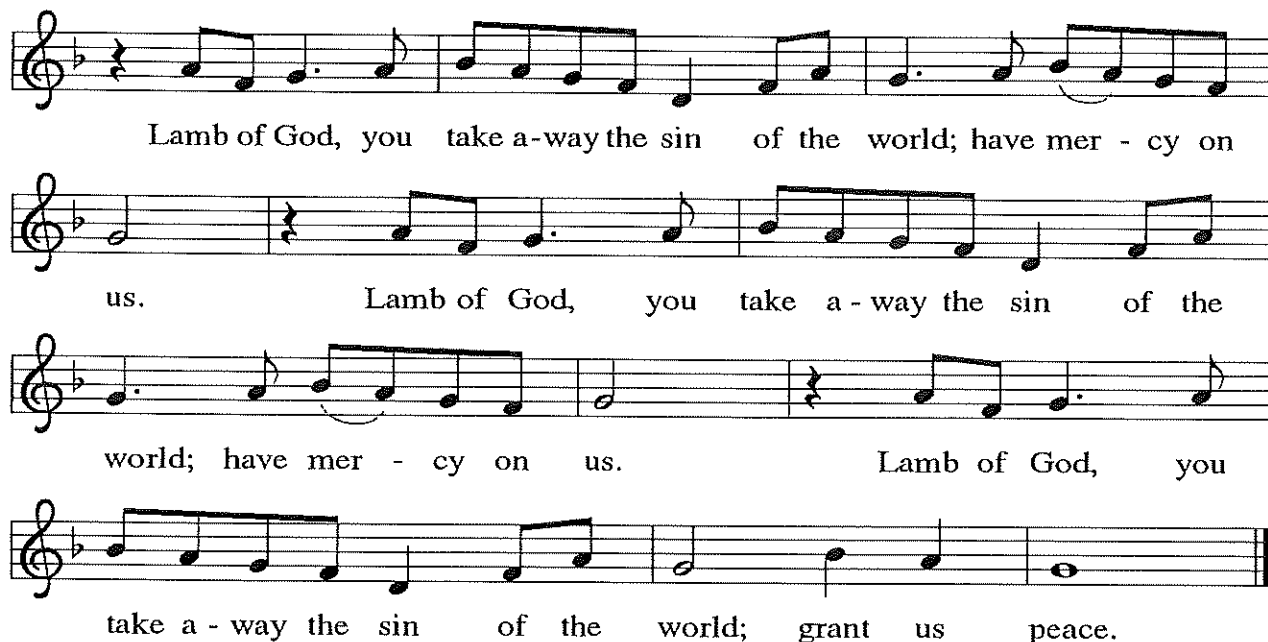
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to his table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Welcome to the Table of the Lord! We commune in a continuous fashion forming two lines down the center aisle. Receive the host from the pastor and then take an individual glass which will be filled from the pouring chalice. You are welcome to fill out a connection card (from the pew racks) and place it in the container at the head of the aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN: *We Come to the Hungry Feast*

479

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

543

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Claudette Allred in honor of her family.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician	John Beamer
Video Tech	Mark Cuthbertson
Greeter	Pam King
Usher	
Reader	Kim Reif
Communion	Pam King, Mary Dehring
Fellowship	Jean, Claudette, Rufena

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Today	Worship	8:45 AM
	Sunday School	10:00 AM
	Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Tue	Quilt Sewing	9:00 AM
	Hannah Circle	10:30 AM
	Education Ministry	1:00 PM
Wed	A.A.	8:00 PM
Sat	Bench Party	Fellowship Hall

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY to all of our beloved grandparents living and those that have passed.

BLUE BARREL: September's collection is cereal for Elliston Food Pantry.

ODAAT (One Day at a Time), widow/widower luncheon. Luncheon begins at 11:30 AM the second Thursday of each month in St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Rocky Ridge, 450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd., Oak Harbor, OH 43449. All widows and widowers are welcome to join us for lunch plus fellowship with games, cards, or visiting until 1:30 PM. September 10th is the next scheduled luncheon. Please RSVP to Sandy Kramer by Sept. 6th @ 419-898-2337. For dates and RSVP deadlines and menus please check the flyer on the bulletin board.

SUNDAY SCHOOL'S SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 118:24,
This is the day that the Lord has made.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH for Norf End Neighbors & Salem's Annual Trunk or Treat. This will be held in the Church's parking lot at 1127 N. Huron St., Toledo, OH 43604. If you can't attend but would like to help out, candy donations of all kinds are accepted every Tuesday from 11 AM to 2 PM, from now until October 10.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS Pizza Fund Raiser has begun, September 11-28, 2026. Check out the flyer on the table in the Narthex.

NARTHEX RE-ARRANGEMENT: A DONATION CORNER is being set up next to the table. There are two large white boxes that will be labeled with the charity we are collecting for, (i.e. – Norf-End trunk or treat, Isiah 117 House, etc.). Philip The Blue Barrel will still collect the monthly food donations. Please remember that outdated canned goods can not be accepted or donated to food pantries or charities.

REMINDER: Beacon deadline is September 21. If possible, please have articles in early. I am having cataract surgery on the 22nd, then again on October 8. This request is for Sunday bulletins and October's newsletter. Please and thank you, Gail.

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Worship 8:45 AM
Sunday School 10:00 AM (Sept-May)
Pastor Matt Musteric
17877 W. State Route 579
Martin, Ohio • 43445 • 419-836-8903
stpeterblackberry@gmail.com

GRANDPARENTS

- ✚ "God couldn't be everywhere so he created grandparents!"
- ✚ "The only thing better than having you as my parents, is my children having you as their grandparents."
- ✚ "Grandchildren are a grandparent's link to the future, grandparents are a grandchildren's link to the past."
- ✚ "The simplest toy, one which even a child can operate, is called a grandparent."
- ✚ "Grandparents hold our tiny hands for a little while, but our hearts forever."
- ✚ "Grandparents have silver in their hair and gold in their hearts!"
- ✚ "The most amazing thing about being a grandparent is that the very kids you made so many mistakes on have grown up and trust you with holding their babies, could there be a better definition of grace?"

By Deborah Pettitt

ATTENDANCE: Worship: 61

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Current:\$2173

Benevolence:\$195

Altar Flowers:\$25

St. Luke's Ministry:\$4085

Kroger Rewards:\$31.29

Loose Change:\$81

Building Fund:\$ 50

SS:\$8

Roof/Boiler Loan:\$50

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

September 20

Greeter:

Usher:

Reader: Mary Dehring

Communion:

Fellowship: Wendy Millinger

Flowers: Wes & Judy Gahler

September 27

Greeter: Pam King

Usher:

Reader: Karen Schanke

Communion: Pam King

Mary Dehring

Fellowship: Cong Growth

Brunch Potluck Style

Flowers: Jim & Mary

Dehring

October 4

Greeter:

Usher:

Reader:

Children's Message:

Communion:

Fellowship:

Flowers: Wendy Millinger

October 11

Greeter:

Usher:

Reader:

Communion

Fellowship:

Flowers: Charles &

LeAnne Jaeger

October 18

Greeter:

Usher:

Reader:

Communion:

Fellowship:

Flowers: Wes & Judy Gahler

October 25

Greeter:

Usher:

Reader:

Communion:

Fellowship:

Flowers: Tom & Bonny

Ottney

Please consider helping out with hospitality and worship leadership this fall!