

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER



May 7, 2023

Photo by Alice Donovan Rouse on Unsplash

***Peace Lutheran Church***



***West Seattle, Washington***

*Christ is risen, indeed! Only life goes on in its usual perplexing ways, and we cannot always figure out where we are going or why. Into that puzzling world comes Jesus, telling us there is a goal to which we are headed, and asking us to trust Jesus, the I AM. In our First Reading Stephen exemplifies such trust by hanging on to Jesus even when being stoned. The Second Reading from 1 Peter in similar fashion portrays Jesus as the cornerstone on whom we can build our lives.*

***Thank you for joining us for this celebration of Christ's resurrection!  
Your presence enriches our community.***

# ✠ GATHERING ✠

P – *Presider*    C – *Congregation*    L - *Lector*    A – *Assisting Minister*  
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

## PRELUDE

Jon Lackey

## WELCOME

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as  
citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the  
everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of  
the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that  
wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the  
life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your  
resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring  
refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask  
this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C **Amen.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



*Refrain*  
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

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

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God!*

S 101

*Refrain*

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

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

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## + WORD +

### **FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

Vicki Martinez

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6: 1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and

"A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Julie Ward

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN** *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.*

*Be Not Afraid*

**ELW #388**

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th Chapter

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Alleluia*

William Boyce

**SERMON**

Pastor Paul Winterstein



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**C** **I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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

Paul Bliss

A Gathered in the light and hope of the resurrection we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.

*Petitions are offered that end with:*

A Jesus, our way, truth and life,

**C hear our prayer.**

*When all petitions have been offered:*

P O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen**

## + MEAL +

### THE PEACE

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

**C And also with you.**

*Let us share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OFFERING

*Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!*



#### OFFERTORY

***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

TUNE: BEACHSPRING

God whose giving knows no ending from your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door.  
Gifted by you we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Generous God,

**C in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts!

**C We lift them to the Lord!**

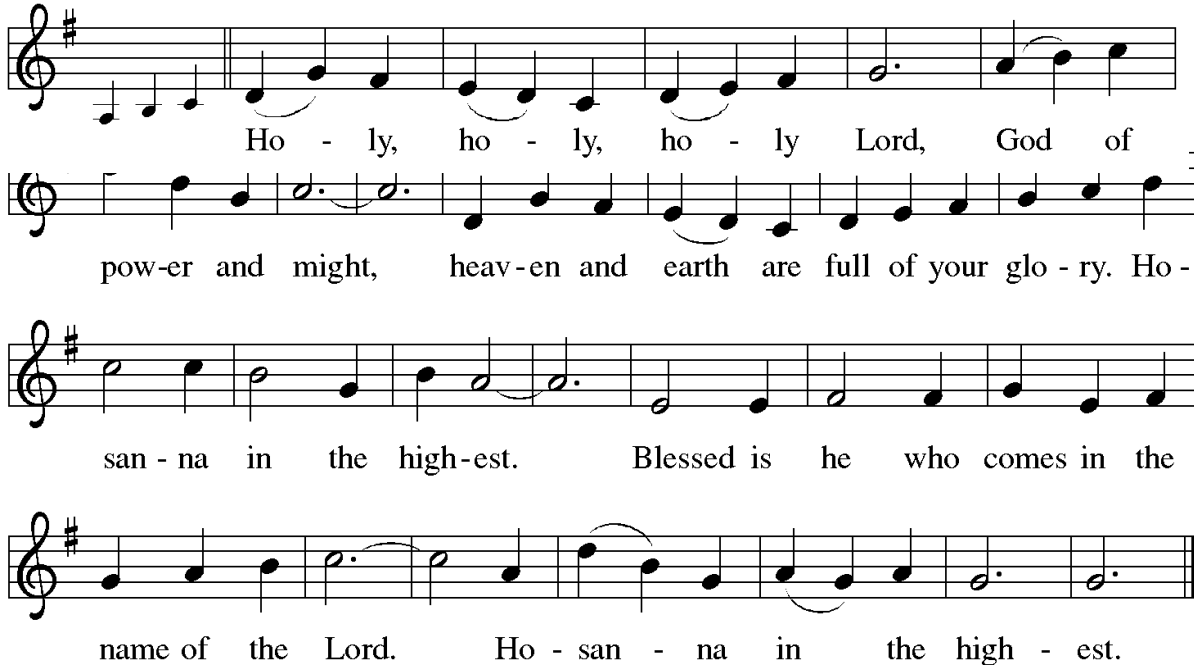


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,

**C heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

P In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son, who as the bread of life reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

**C whose very flesh and blood became in person the good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**C Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Remembering that in this bread and wine we receive his life lived for us, his death to redeem us, his resurrection that conquers our death, and his ascension that fills us with hope, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Feed your children, O God, with the flesh and blood of your Son that, sustained with the bread of heaven, we may serve you with our lives. Make this feast truly a foretaste of the feast to come.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

P Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

P Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*ecumenical*)

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

**ELW #362**



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
 you have conquered in the fight,  
 you have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
 this alone can sin destroy!  
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 newborn souls in you to be.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 now no more the grave enthrall;  
 you have opened paradise,  
 and your saints in you shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray. Eternal God, through baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ you welcome us to this table and nourish us with the food and drink of the Promised Land. Now send us forth into the world, that we may be witnesses to your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. C Amen.

**BLESSING**

P The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. C Amen.

**+ SENDING +**

**SENDING HYMN**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**ELW #654**



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace.



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

## DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

Jon Lackey



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sabbatical Pastor

Rev. Paul Winterstein

Minister of Music

Jon Lackey

Liturgical Assistant

Paul Bliss

Acolyte

Ben Ward

Lector

Vicki Martinez

Children's Sermon

Julie Ward

Greeters

Helen Hundley, Jean Sides

Ushers

Larry & Janet Cruse

Altar Care

Kathleen Keyes

Communion Assistants

Karl Coy, Kathleen Keyes

Coffee Server

Helen Hundley

Counters

Paul Bliss, Karl Coy

Production Techs

Alex Wren, Dustin Smith

Childcare

Heidi Coy

## OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

*Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month.*

### Offering Income received APRIL 2023

04/02/23 \$ 2,910.00

04/09/23 \$ 5,352.00

04/16/23 \$ 430.00

04/23/23 \$ 1,663.00

04/30/23 \$ 292.00

Electronic \$12,412.69

**Total \$23,059.69**

*Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally.*

## THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Still searching for the perfect Mother's Day plan? Here are [21 ways to have a green Mother's Day](#). Get Mom a comfortable chair and a glass of ice tea while you do her garden chores for her. Make her brunch from local ingredients. Build her a bird feeder. Not that handy? Then give her a gift you can share—like tickets to an outdoor concert! Get more ideas at <https://onetreepanted.org/blogs/stories/eco-friendly-mothers-day>.

**Pray for Creation:** We ask the Creator to bring relief to those who are experiencing losses caused by springtime floods and other weather-related damage.

## PEACE POLLINATOR PROJECT SEMINAR 5/6/23 1 PM

Join us under the canopy at West Seattle Nursery on Saturday, May 6 at 1 pm. Native plants expert Kyle Henegar will share with us how to utilize native plants to support birds, bees, and beetles. Come and learn how you can make your landscape friendly to the pollinators that enable fruits, vegetables, and seeds to thrive and feed us. Bring your neighbors and friends!

## PRAYER LIST

**Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers:** **Sick/Recovering:** Kathy Anderson; Arlene; Vonda Cuchine; Marsha Davis; Mark Engelman; Sean Fenton; Deena Fuller; Jack Garrison; Caity Gerhardt; Nathaniel Gibson; Dawn Gringorten; Jaylin H.; Donna Heiland; Jerry Heiland; Heather Jennings; Tony Jilek; Victoria Johnson; Ken Keyes; Mike Larson; Noreen Lee; Dee Levy; Jan Madsen; Maya Marshall; Evelyn Martinez; Vicki Martinez; Chloe McDonough; Pete McIntyre; Eric, Erin, Finley McDonough; Ken McPherson; Jenn Mersing; Steve Metzler; Jim Meyer; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Nora; Marianne Paulos; Paul Paulos; Michelle Pierce; Elaine Ross; Aaden Smith; Leon Smith; JoAnne Spangler; Kadi Sue Sprengle; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Conrad Tollefson; Wade & Karin VanSant; Wendell & Wilson; Judy Wiggins; Inge Williams; Patti Wunder; Inta Zagars.

**Homebound:** Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell

**PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST** We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

## RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

*Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.*



*As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.*

## PERMISSIONS

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