

But You Are

a Chosen People,

a Royal Priesthood,

a Holy Nation.

1 Peter 2:9

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
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Bremen, Indiana 46506
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First Peter (in general) and our text (in particular) speak to our baptismal identity as “newborn infants” (2:2). After addressing his hearers as “elect exiles” (1:1), Peter opens with a high doxology: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1:3). He further acknowledges that “now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials” (1:6). These twin conditions of God’s people, negative and positive, will run throughout our text. Over against the world, they are exiled and rejected, but in God’s eyes, they are elect in Christ and precious.

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord’s Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Opening Hymn 660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

Duet "People Need the Lord"

Sung by Ellen Augustine and Heidi Wildauer

1. Every day they pass me by. I can see it in their eye;
Empty people filled with care, headed who knows where.
On they go through private pain, living fear to fear.
Laughter hides the silent cries only Jesus hears.

People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams He's the door.
People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
When will we realize people need the Lord.

2. We are called to take his light to a world where wrong seems right;
What could be too great a cost for sharing life with one who's lost.
Through His love our hearts can feel all the grief they bear.
They must hear the words of life only we can share.

People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams He's the door.
People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
That we must give our lives for people need the Lord.
People need the Lord.

Greg Nelson & Phil McHugh; Arr. By Henry Weins
River Oaks Music Company

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

- P** Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
C **His praise in the assembly of the godly!**
P I will extol you, O LORD, for You have drawn me up
C **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**
P O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,
C **and You have healed me.**
P O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;
C **You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**
P Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
C **and give thanks to His holy name.**
P For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.
C **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
C **His praise in the assembly of the godly!**

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest* LSB 154
(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-4; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint

to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Adapted from: Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

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

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)*

LSB 156

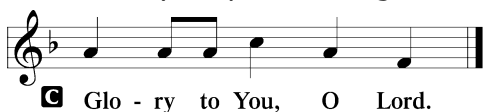


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus said: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

⁸Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

Hymn 647 "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

Sermon Text

1 Peter 2:2-10

Sermon "God's Newborn, Chosen, Priestly People"

1. Joined to the resurrected Christ by baptismal grace, you are a

2. From that nurturing love, the infant children of God learn their

3. Living in Christ and sharing His status, you also share in

Hymn 912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Prayer of the Church *(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

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

P For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the educational institutions of our synod: for our preschools, our day schools and high schools, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

C 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.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 166

P 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.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn 644 "The Church's One Foundation"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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SHUT-IN OF THE WEEK *Phyllis Brown*

Autumn Trace Senior Community #110

2560 W. Lake Avenue

Plymouth, IN 46563

Calendar of Events

TODAY	May 7, 2023
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
Adult Basketball.....	2:00 pm-4:00 pm
MON:	
TUES:	
PTL Meeting.....	7:00 pm
WED:	
Day School Chapel	8:05 am
“Connect to Disciple” Bible Study	6:30 pm
THURS:	
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study	9:30 am
FRI:	
Parish Fellowship Meeting.....	11:00 am
Euchre Party.....	7:00-9:00 pm
SAT:	
Women Reading GOD’S Word in Community	Cancelled
NEXT SUNDAY	May 14, 2023
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion.....	9:30 am

Canceled ~ Women reading the Bible in Community will not meet on May 13th. We will meet again on May 20th at 11:00 am. Please join us! We would love to see you!

ALL MEMBERS of St. Paul’s are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the “Connect to Disciple” Bible study. The same study is held either Sunday morning at 8:30 or Wednesday evening at 6:30. This is the first congregational Bible study for the revitalization program. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to grow together in God’s Word.

The Hospitality Committee needs your help! On May 10th this group will be creating the next round of dinners for our shut-ins of the church and community. They are in need of Knorr Rice or Knorr Noodle side packages. There is a table in the narthex for these items labeled Hospitality Committee. If you would like to help prepare the meals, please call Sandie Schooler or Beth Enders. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

Special Concerns:

That we, joined by baptismal grace to the resurrected Lord as His newborn, chosen, priestly people, will joyfully glorify God and witness to His love for the world.

For Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For our country and her leaders.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

That Jesus would offer grace and healing to all Christians throughout the world who face the struggles of natural disasters, war, and persecution as they shine the light of their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mike and Marilyn Gumz would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits after the recent passing of Marilyn's mom, Carole Kessler. It is a blessing to have a caring Christian family.

The Board of Evangelism will be delivering Welcome Bags in Bremen on Monday, May 22nd starting at 5:00 PM with bag assembly in the Bethany Room. Once all bags are assembled we will divide the addresses and bags and split into 2 person teams to go deliver! Our Board is requesting donations of bottled water, single water drink mixes, microwave popcorn, cheese and cracker packets, sticky notes, mechanical pencils, knit/crocheted dish clothes or 100% cotton yarn to make the dishcloths. We need approximately 40 of each item each time we deliver. There is a table in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!! Please join us to pack/deliver these bags on May 22.....meet new people, tell about Jesus, minister to a neighbor! Thank you for your prayers for this project and all other help! Questions? Contact Deb Burcham or Angie Hughes.

Be sure to check out the missions board for updates on Haiti and our missionaries Micah Wildauer & JamieLynn Flores. Please continue to lift them all up in prayer and thanksgiving as the Lord is working in all things. To Christ be all the glory!

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Board will be holding a Parent / Youth meeting after the church service **TODAY**. This is for families with Youth entering Grades 6 through High School (12th Grade) in the coming school year as we will discuss upcoming events and some long range planning. We encourage families--parents and Youth included--to attend as we look forward to

providing opportunities for our Youth to "Engage and Serve." If you have any questions or are unable to attend and would like information, please contact Andy Wildauer.

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you, St. Paul's congregation, for supporting St. Paul's Preschool and Elementary Schools! Our mission is to provide a Biblically based education, and as we enroll future students and complete our end-of-the-year activities, we are grateful and blessed to continue the work set before us. Now with Choice Scholarships and many other scholarship options, we can make our school more affordable! **If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education for Preschool through 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us. YOU are our best advertisements! Online enrollment is available through the church website (school side).**

We are looking forward to filming our first TV ad in May! The schools will be helping to create a 30-second spot for WHME Channel 46 (from Family Broadcasting) to air all summer, funded largely through donations. Please pray for this process and that God will help us reach the students who need to be taught the Gospel with their education.

Please also pray for our students and teachers as they travel on many field trips the next two weeks: Fort Wayne Zoo, Potato Creek State Park, Six Flags, Bremen Library, Field Day at Jane's Park (the 15th), and Potawatomi Zoo. The Kindergarten and 1st Grade will also be planting flowers at the Bremen Community Center on May 19th. We are looking forward to these fun activities as the year finishes out.

Eighth Grade Confirmation is May 21st during worship, and the Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation Service will be May 24th, at 7:00pm. The congregation is invited to share in the celebration with these students as they proceed in faith and education.

Please remember to give to the SGO!

Kindergarteners cannot apply for Choice Scholarships, so we will be using SGO scholarships to assist with tuition and qualify them for Choice for the following years. **Please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your

donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.