

New St. Peter's Presbyterian Church
Celebration of Worship
May 12, 2019

Striking of the Hour *“Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners”*

Call to Worship (Ezekiel 34)

As a shepherd seeks out his scattered flock, so the LORD seeks out His sheep and rescues them from all the places they have been scattered.

Silence

Liturgy of the Word (Ezekiel 34)

“I myself will be the Shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,” declares the Lord. **“I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured.** I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will feed with justice.” **But the LORD will feed His people with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be our grazing land.**

Invocation

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we
also forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Hymn: *“The Love of Christ is Rich and Free”*

Hymn: *“Luke 15”*

Confession of Sin and Plea for Pardon (Luke 15, Romans 6)

Good Shepherd, You have sought us out in order to redeem us and grant us repentance unto life. **But we confess we often turn our gaze sideways in comparison and self-justification, and thereby neglect the repentance You grant. Rather than rejoicing in Your work, we are quick to grumble when our enemies receive grace, choosing instead a posture of self-**

righteousness. In baptism, You have signified our participation with Christ, yet we often fail to follow Him in His death by dying to sin and self. We present ourselves to sin as its slaves, neglecting the free grace of Your gospel. So grant us forgiveness and true repentance through Jesus our Lord so that our hearts may join our lips in praising Your mercy and grace.

Worshippers may continue to confess their sins in silence.

Assurance of Pardon (Luke 15, Isaiah 40)

Sisters and Brothers, the Lord tends his flock like a shepherd; He has forgiven your sins. **He gathers His lambs in His arms and carries us on His shoulders, rejoicing over our redemption. He gently leads us in the ways of repentance, that we may live. Thanks be to God!**

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Psalms: In composing this song, King David leads God's people to find the joy of repentance. (Psalm 51:1-10)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Doxology *"Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"*

Preparation for Baptism (Deuteronomy 6 and Acts 2)

Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of His Holy Spirit. **For this promise is for us and for our children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the LORD our God calls to Himself.**

Words of Instruction

Sign of God's Covenant in Baptism

Hymn: *“Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You”*

Sermon: *“Heaven’s Joy”* (Luke 15:1-10)

Hymn: *“Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd”*

Hymn: *“He Will Hold Me Fast”*

Parting Liturgy (Ezekiel 34)

Church, the LORD will fulfill His covenant of peace, and He will banish wild beasts from the land so that you, His flock, may dwell securely in the wilderness. **He will make all the land to be a blessing and send rain showers in their season, and we will know that He is the LORD, our Shepherd and Deliverer.**

Benediction (Psalm 51)

May God grant that you hear the joy and gladness of heaven which is the rejoicing of repentance, the cleansing of your heart, and the renewal of your spirit by the grace of Jesus Christ, so that you might know the presence of God now and forever.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.