

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

## June 29, 2025 + PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.

#### + GATHERING +

#### Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

#### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





# St. Peter And St. Paul, Apostles

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Turn to me and be saved," says the Lord.

"For I am God and there is no other."

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Today we consider the mercy of God, amazingly offered to us who need it so.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

Faith is weak and greed is strong; selfishly we turn from one another and from you.

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.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake our sins may be forgiven. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945 Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Public Domain

## **Opening Litany**

The Lord God says, "I will search for my sheep, and I will seek them out.

We are sheep of your own fold, and lambs of your own flock.

The Lord God says, "I will seek the lost."

We thank you, Lord, for seeking all of the lost souls.

The Lord God says, "I will bring back the strayed."

We thank you, Lord, for always guiding us especially when we stray.

The Lord God says, "I will bind up the injured."

We thank you, Lord, for healing the injuries of our hearts and souls.

The Lord God says, "I will strengthen the weak."

We thank you, Lord, for the strength you provide especially when our own resources are exhausted.

The Lord God is our God.

We thank you, God, for all that you are to us – our strength, our guide, our healer, and our Savior. Amen.

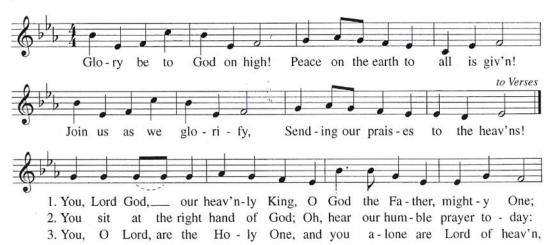
## **Apostolic Greeting**

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**

Family of God





## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
Almighty God,
we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you by their martyrdoms.
Grant that your church throughout the world
may always be instructed by their teaching and example,
be knit together in unity by your Spirit,
and ever stand firm upon the one foundation
who is Jesus Christ our Lord,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## + WORD +

First Reading Acts 12:1-11

King Herod had  $\bar{J}$ ames killed and had Peter put in prison, under heavy guard. In what Peter first believes is only a vision, an angel leads him past unseeing guards, out of the prison, and to freedom.

## A reading from Acts.

<sup>1</sup>About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup>After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup>When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup>While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

<sup>6</sup>The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. 8The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup>Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

Let us read Psalm 87 responsively.

<sup>1</sup>On the holy mountain stands the city God has founded; <sup>2</sup>the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup>Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God.

<sup>5</sup>Of the city it shall be said, "Everyone was born in Zion, and the Most High shall sustain the city."

<sup>6</sup>Enrolling the nations, the LORD records: "These also were born there."

<sup>7</sup>The singers and the dancers will say,

"All my fresh springs are in you."

### **Second Reading**

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

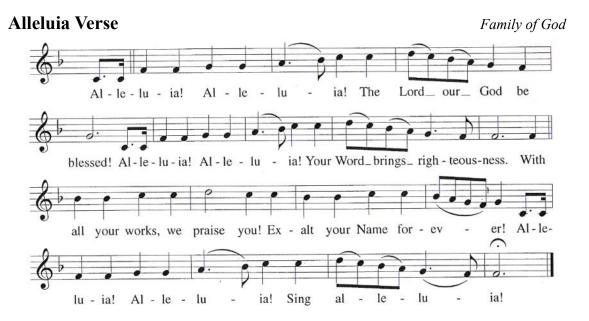
Paul has faithfully persevered in the mission the Lord had given to him. Near life's end he rests in the promise of eternal life, confident that the Lord who has rescued him in the past will bring him into the heavenly kingdom.

A reading from Second Timothy.

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel John 21:15-19

Jesus invites Simon Peter to declare his love for him three times, in a manner reminiscent of the three times that Peter earlier denied Christ. Jesus commissions him to feed his sheep and predicts that he will die as a martyr for God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

15When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

16A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

17He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

18Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

19(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

## Children's Time Sermon





Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905,

Public Domain

## **Apostles' Creed**

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

## **Prayer of Intercession**

P Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel.

Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

P We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion's mouth,

rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

- A We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict, and bring justice to each community. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P We pray for all who suffer.
  As you stood by Paul and gave him strength,
  stand by all who know loneliness,
  and give strength to all who know persecution.

Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick, *especially*... Channel our restlessness into your work in the world.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

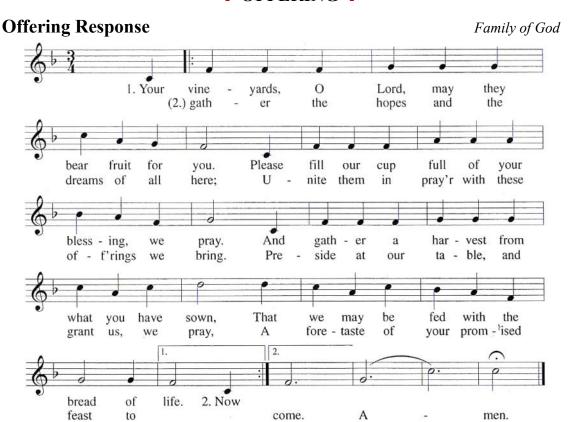
- A We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear.

  Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries, and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### + OFFERING +



## + MEAL +

## **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.

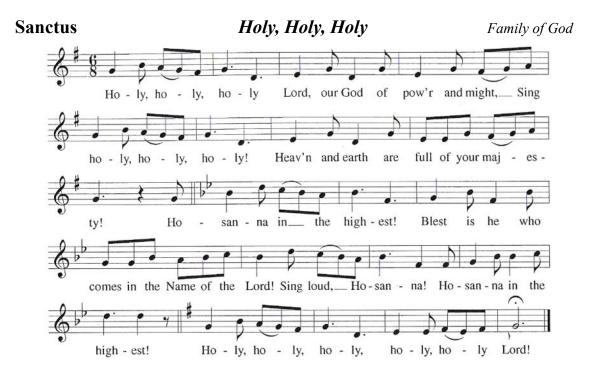


## **Proper Preface**

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, almighty and merciful God,
through the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ;
who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles
to preach the gospel and teach all nations,
and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age.

And so, with Saints Peter and Paul
and the glorious company of the apostles,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

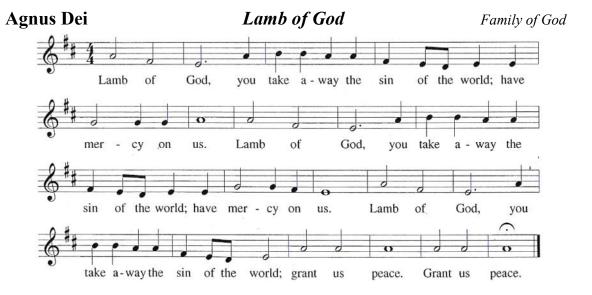
Give us this day our daily bread;

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.

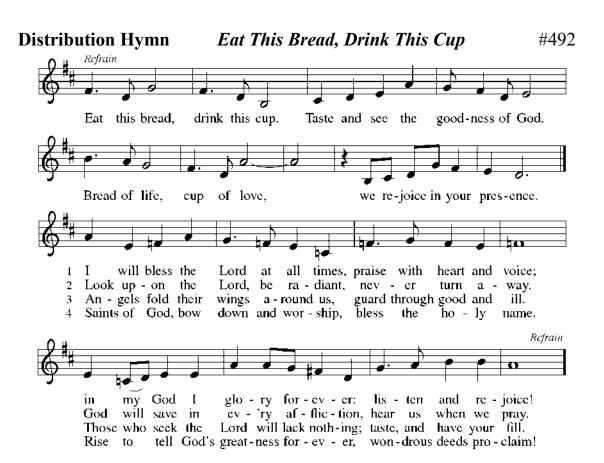


#### **Distribution**

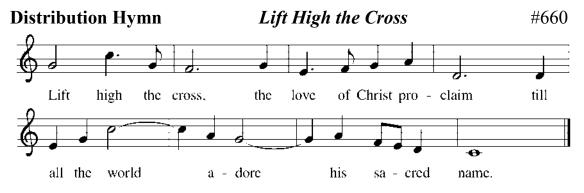
If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The Body of Christ given for you.

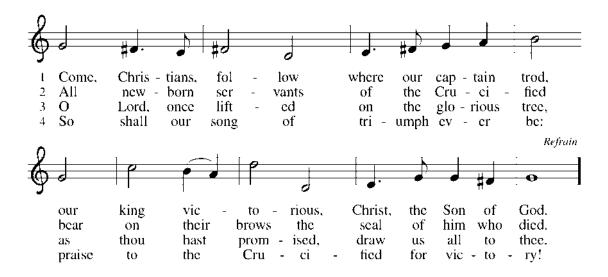
The Blood of Christ shed for you.



Text & Music: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, based on Ps. 34 refrain; With One Voice, stanzas, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711706



Song continues on the next page.



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956 © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, IL. Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947 Used by permission with CCLI License #11068244

## **Table Blessing**

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ make you strong to do His will, and keep you in His grace. **Amen.** 

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)

Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

+ SENDING +

#### **Announcements**

#### **Benediction**

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, continue to bless you, comfort you, and guide you in your journey of faith. Amen.



Text: Richard Mant, 1776-1848, alt. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893 Public Domain

#### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.



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# **VOLUNTEER JUMBLE**

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Unscramble the letters in the circles to spell the name of our amazing volunteer!



# Saint Peter & Saint Paul

N X Ε C S В P N D G Ε Ε Z M Z P 0 T Ε S В D Z E S N Q E S T E Z R Ε 0 P Q 0 X X 0 В R R 0 J Y U G R Q S E D S S S S Z X В A S Y Q A E C S N G E T D X В 0 R D S E E D E S K A R Q W Q M 0 E Y R C Y S Z S Q S R S X N P X 0 Z X T X C G C Q S H 0 P J C 0 0 0 Z В Z S R T C E S R G 0 Ε S В D 0 G Ε Ν Т L X N G 0 X C 0 E R E W N J N 0 C S G Т G В N E Ε R G B C S Χ C R X 0 S Υ U E D X T E T E D E Н N M K R Q Ε S T S Υ S W W G R 0 0 R S Z R

PERSECUTOR MISSIONARY **FISHERMAN** DISCIPLE **STEPHEN** ANANIAS SILAS

CRUCIFIED BETRAYER CONVERT JEWISH SAINT

**IMPRISONED PREACHER** BEHEADED CESAREA MARTYR BLIND

TENTMAKER PHARISEE WITNESS APOSTLE SAINTS SAUL

SHIPWRECK **GENTILES TAURSUS** ANTIOCH SIMON ROME

## Help Saints Peter and Paul find their way to Rome

