



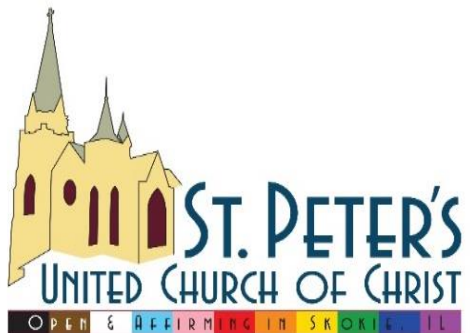
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
**Sunday,**  
**September 29,**  
**2024**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Nineteenth**  
**Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**

god  
IS  
love  
1 JOHN 4:8





# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Masks and distance recommended, not required

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel after



## Ways to Give

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

**Use PayPal.** <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

**Set up Vanco.** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

**C:** **For we seek your presence, the company of this community, and the renewal of our minds and spirits.**

**P:** Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

**C: For you impart wisdom, inspire joy, and instill hope as we reflect on the past, live in the present, and consider the future.**

P: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

**C: For wherever we gather in your name, we find holy ground; whenever we call you, we find a fresh encounter; however we know you, we find belonging. Praise God!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Harriet Dart

## OPENING RESPONSE

### “When in Our Music, God is Glorified”

vs. 1

*Unison*

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
 3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night,  
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?  
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found tongue:  
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:  
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
 And may God give us faith to sing all - ways:

1-4 Al - le - lu - ia! 5 Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)  
 MUSIC: Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924)

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ENGELBERG  
 10.10.10. Alleluia

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: Righteous God, we acknowledge the need for repentance and repair. We have confused seeking the common good with controlling our neighbor. We have conflated unity with uniformity. We have cosigned on societal norms that divide, segregate, and exclude rather than becoming agents of cultural change to bridge, welcome, and belong. Transform our hearts and stir our souls. Foster a spirit of curiosity, hospitality, and reconciliation to make things right with our neighbors, foes, and friends. Lead us on the path of belonging. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**P: Wonderfully and fearfully made humans, you are not bound by the pressures of culture or the attitudes of your past. Even our embedded biases may be broken, our isolationist tendencies shattered, and our fearful reactions unlearned. You belong to the kingdom and the kingdom belongs to you. Press forward with the grace to transform and create a world reflecting the reign of God, with peace, justice, and righteousness for all.**

**A: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN "When in Our Music, God is Glorified" vs. 2-5

*Unison*

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
 3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night  
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?  
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found  
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue;  
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
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ENGELBERG

10.10.10. Alleluia

*The congregation may be seated*

**MISSION MOMENT**

Rev. Roger Dart

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Barb Todd

Psalter Reading: Psalm 124

Epistle: James 5: 13-20

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 9:38-50

**RESPONSE**

“Hallelujah”

#495

*The congregation may be seated*

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**A: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever. Amen.**



**CALL TO OFFERING**

P: James reminds us that, “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” May we offer our gifts as a prayer of trust that God provides, a prayer of resistance that declares that creation’s abundance and sufficiency, and a prayer of hope that needs can be met. We pray with our mouths, our hearts, and our spirits. Let us also pray with our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**OFFERTORY**

*If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow “Electronic Giving” card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.*

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**RESPONSE**

**“We are An Offering”**

**SSB #11**

We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our  
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our  
 voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our  
 lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —  
 All that we have, — all that we are, —  
 all that we hope to be we give to You, we  
 give to You. — We lift our  
 voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our  
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A:** Creating God, thank you for hearing our prayer, receiving these gifts, and making them holy for your kingdom. Bless and honor every gift, enlarge our territory, and renew the resources as a demonstration of generosity and flourishing in your realm. Amen.

## PULPIT HYMN "O For A World"

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*The congregation may be seated*

## SERMON "Courage for Community"

Rev. Harriet Dart

Will those who are able please stand up

## HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of  
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,  
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -  
 4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples  
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?  
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,  
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,  
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

*Refrain*

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will light the flame of care?  
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,  
 each a love song to be sung,  
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

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## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: May the love of God uphold you as your love of neighbor compels you.  
 May the peace of Christ sustain you as the work of peace inspires you.  
 May the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit direct you as the call to community beckon you.  
 Go, in the assurance of belonging to God and one another in hope and joy. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Selected

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. The Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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## FOR WORSHIP TODAY

GUEST MINISTER	Rev. Harriet Dart
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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God has gathered us here out of all different circumstances. Whether you carry joy or heaviness in your heart, I encourage you to lay it at the feet of Jesus. Give your whole self to God in worship. Welcome.

**A Huge THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard for months getting our Rummage and Bake Sale together.** From donating, weeks and weeks of sorting, advertising, cleaning, pricing, tossing, baking - to that final push, and working the sale – we couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to our Rummage Sale Coordinator Annie Noorts who took this on solo this year, you did an amazing job! Your dedication made this happen. The Rummage and Bake Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year, we are so grateful to everyone for making it a success.

**We welcome back Rev.'s Harriet and Roger Dart.** Harriet Dart is an ordained minister who, with her husband Roger, is active in the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Illinois Conference of the UCC. Rev. Harriet Dart loves music and women's ministries. She has been active in the Conference's Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations (TPIRC) initiative. Rev. Roger Dart serves as the Disaster Response Coordinator for the Illinois Conference of the UCC which is an active member of Illinois Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

**After the Rummage Sale** - After the Rummage Sale, we always open the doors to individuals and organizations in need. They are invited to come and take whatever items they or their clients can use. Please feel free to invite anyone you know who is in need or serves those in need to come after the sale to get items they need at no cost to them or their organization. Annie has invited those who

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came in the past to come at **3:00PM on Saturday, 9-28 when we close the sale, or on Monday, 9/30 11AM-1PM.** Please let Annie know if you invite anyone so we know who to expect. After these folks have picked up what they want, we will be packing everything up and hauling things to Goodwill and Salvation Army.

**Packing day for Rummage Sale cleanup will be Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2PM.** Please come help this last time!

**Please join us next Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, when our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Carol Ann Munro.** Rev. Munro has graced our pulpit on many occasions, and we know we can look forward to some good preaching!

**Your Church Council met last Sunday by Zoom.** Among other business, the Council selected President Peggy Reins to serve as our local church representative to the fall meeting of the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) on October 5th and the annual meeting of Illinois Conference of the UCC on November 1st and 2nd. Additional details about these meetings and our relationship to the CMA and Illinois Conference will be in the October Announcer.

**The Annual Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E.** is scheduled for October 20th at 3PM.

**The Fall Craft Show this year will be on Saturday November 2nd from 10-3.** If you are interested in a table please let either Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 know so we can mark you down. Any questions please let Wendy know.

***Belonging: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B*** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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# Our People

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**Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:**

- 15-year-old family friend of Denise Hopp is currently suffering from mental illness.
- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously. She will be having surgery in October.
- Sharon Johnson, who will be having surgery on Tuesday 10/1/24.
- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.
- Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, in Oregon. She is in treatment for breast cancer.
- Marcia Hilliard continues to improve at home. She returns to the hospital on October 7th for another, and hopefully her last, surgery.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman, who is in hospice care in Ohio.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donna, in treatment for cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski will or has begun additional treatments after having brain surgery last month.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter completed his chemo. His wife Susie Richter, who has breast cancer, had surgery and will be starting treatment soon. Also, their friends Bunny and Eddy Thompson are both fighting cancer.

*Please keep them and their families in your prayers.*

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt, Ursula Dworak, Lois Jarmuth, Bob Seitman, and Jackie Johnson. Thinking of the family in the passing of Julie Jernberg's father-in-law.

**If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!**

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**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Ann Herren, and our Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

**Celebrating birthdays this week are** Maya (Schuhrke) Martinek, Nicole Miller, Doug Johnson and Gretchen Sterba **Celebrating their anniversary this week** Mandy and Richard Steegmueller and Peggy and Chad McCoy. God's Blessings to all on their special days!

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### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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### *Regular Reminders!*

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**Let us know you were here!** Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.**

No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie.** The Niles Township Food Pantry tells us ours is the most successful in the area. But we can't keep it going without regular donations. If you are able, please bring food to help us keep it going. Food can be left on the shelves by the office doors, or in the narthex. Thank you so much!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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### **Courage for Community (9/29/2024)**

### **GREEN**

### **19th Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

An ad sponsored by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, which ran during last winter's Super Bowl, reminded viewers that silence isn't golden when others are being persecuted. It featured Clarence B. Jones, a civil rights activist and draft speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., who, as images of hate flashed on the screen, spoke these words, "All hate thrives on one thing: silence."

A Jewish woman named Esther, who would become Queen of Persia, knew all about speaking up for the good of a community. Her story, recorded in the Book of Esther, tells of the Jewish people living in exile in Persia after the destruction of the First Temple. Under the reign of King Achashverosh, a royal advisor named Haman concocted a plot to wipe out the Persian Jewish community. Esther, along with her guardian, Mordechai, were able to foil Haman's plot and save the Jewish community.

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At the climax of this story, when the Jewish community of Persia is facing imminent destruction, Mordechai calls on Esther to speak up on behalf of the Jewish people. Esther hesitates at first for she fears her own safety, being a Jew herself in the inner court. Mordechai reminds her that she is forever tied to the Jewish people and that her voice needs to be heard. In the end, Esther speaks up and her people are saved. To this day, Esther is remembered and celebrated as a hero and an advocate on the Jewish celebration known as Purim.

The need to speak is great, yet still so very scary for many of us as we fear our own safety and security. Throughout history, though, God calls for voices like Esther's, like Clarence B. Jones' — like yours —to speak for those whose voices are not being heard.

Ask God for the courage to do so and trust the words to come.

*Loving God, give us the courage of Esther to speak up when we see communities hurting. May our words not be confrontational or hateful. Rather, may they be filled with love and point to your glory. Amen.*

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# Scriptures for Sunday, September 29, 2024

**Please join me in spirit of prayer as we offer up our Prayer of Illumination.**

**“Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”**

**This morning’s Psalter reading is Psalm 124.**

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—

<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,

<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away;  
the torrent would have gone over us;

<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the hunters;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**This ends the reading from the Psalms. Our epistle reading is James 5:13-20.**

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed

fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth<sup>[a]</sup> and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's<sup>[b]</sup> soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**This ends the reading of our epistle lesson. Our worship continues with a musical meditation.**

**Thank you, Ben. For those who are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel. This morning's Gospel lesson is Mark 9:38-50.**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,<sup>[a]</sup> and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> "If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me<sup>[b]</sup> to sin,<sup>[c]</sup> it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin,<sup>[d]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,<sup>[e]</sup> to the unquenchable fire.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin,<sup>[g]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.<sup>[h][i]</sup> <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin,<sup>[j]</sup> tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,<sup>[k]</sup> <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire.<sup>[l]</sup> <sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?<sup>[m]</sup> Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**This concludes our gospel lesson for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.**