



# Welcome

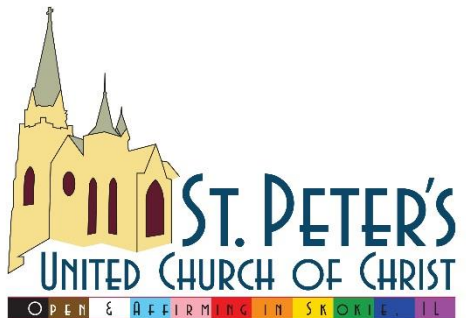
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
October 1, 2023  
10:00 AM**

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**Eighteenth Sunday  
After Pentecost**

**World Communion  
Sunday**





# 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

**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

**Use PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory&to=stpeteruccskokie)

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

**Set up Vanco.** Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



## 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

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**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](https://www.facebook.com/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, October 1, 2023 at 10:00am**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**

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

**PRELUDE** "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. Lehenbauer

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Beth Lanford

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Revelation 1*

**P:** Grace unto you and peace from God, who was and who is, and who is to come.

**C:** **And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, ruler above all rulers of the earth.**

**P:** In love Jesus Christ suffered death to free us from our sins,

**C:** **Making us a nation of priests set aside for God's service.**

**A:** **To Jesus Christ be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen.**

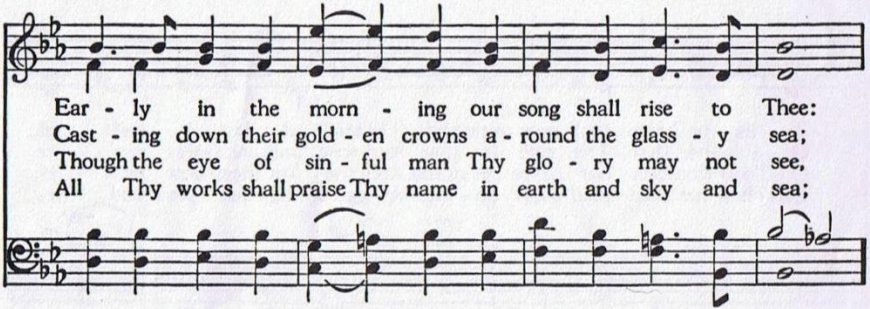
## RESPONSE

## "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

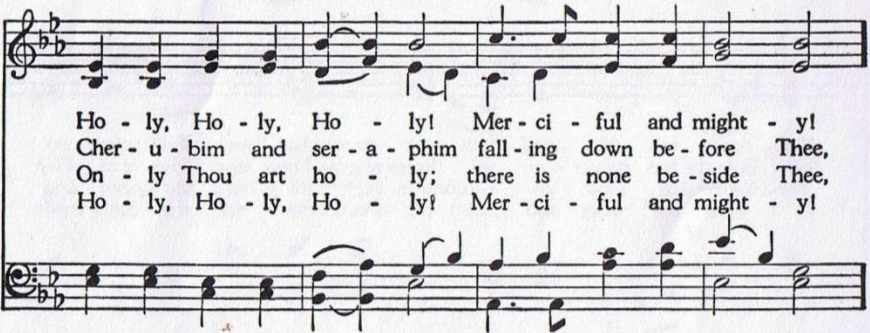
## #1 (v.1)



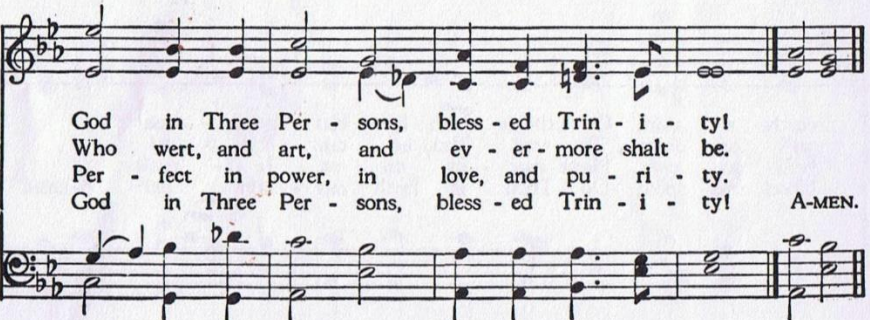
1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Come, people of God, out of your separateness, to enter into unity with one another, and with all who seek the presence of Jesus Christ, through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the fruit of the vine. Come, confessing the sin that separates us from God and from one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**A: Eternal God of all people and places, we confess to You our lack of oneness with our human sisters and brothers as we hold this celebration of unity in Christ. We have closed our ears to the voices of pain, and of wisdom, when they speak in accents other than our own. We have lacked the vision to see that people living in places we call foreign are as surely Your children as we are. Our sensibilities are jarred even by the way our nearest neighbors express their faith in Jesus Christ. We cling to the pride of nation and denomination as if we had a special claim on truth and leadership. Gracious God, forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us, a spirit of compassion, understanding, and humility. Fill us with the vision of unity in Christ, and enable us to incarnate Christ's love, so that we may worthily partake in the body of Christ and the cup of the new covenant. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Based on the Te Deum Laudamus*

P: The good news in Christ is that God is more willing to forgive our sins than we are to acknowledge them. The peace of God be with us all, keeping us in unity with Christ's people everywhere, with whom we speak this ancient song of praise:

P: We praise You, O God.

**C: We acknowledge You as the rightful object of our worship and obedience.**

P: All earth worships You.

**C:** Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.

**P:** The glorious company of the apostles praise You.

**C:** The goodly communion of the prophets praises You.

**A:** Day by day we glorify You, and we worship Your name forever, world without end. Amen.

## HYMN

## “Holy, Holy, Holy”

#1 (vv. 2,4)

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,

3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,

4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated*

**A CALL TO OFFERING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Epistle:

I Peter 3:13-18

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Be Not Afraid”

by David Haas

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 14:22-33

**RESPONSE**

“Alleluia!”

#495

*The congregation may be seated*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY**

“On Fear”

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts!

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPOND

153

### Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It features a tempo marking of quarter note = 65. The melody consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine." Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bb, and Bb.

Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

## CLOSING PRAYER AND 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



*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN** "O Christ, When You Ascended"

*Please sing to the tune of "The Day of Resurrection"*

**O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;  
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.  
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.  
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each  
day.**

**We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:  
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.  
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and  
space;  
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.**

**We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;  
Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old.  
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear —  
But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us  
here.**

**It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;  
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.  
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —  
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.**

**One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;  
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.  
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your  
name;**

**On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.**

*Text: Copyright © 2007 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

*Included in **Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor** (Upper Room Books, 2009), which Rev. Lanford owns, and includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.*

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION** *A prayer of St. Brendan*

P: "Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.

**C: Christ of the mysteries, I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm within me.  
I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.**

P: Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,

**C: and somehow, make my obedience count for You."**

**A: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

arr. Metzinger

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. 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**

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MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Jenn Schneider

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Beth Sterba

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome! God says: "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1). Let us listen for God's voice as we worship.**

**Thank you to everyone who helped to serve yesterday at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest.** We serve lunch on the 5th Saturday, which calls for us volunteers to be there in person from 11 AM to 2:30 PM. The time goes fast. Our next turn to buy the groceries for the meal at, and to serve there, is Saturday, December 30th!

**New Wifi Name!** Due to technical difficulties, please use ATTUNITEDCHURCH1 to logon, the password has not changed.

**Yesterday was also** the Fall Meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference of our United Church of Christ.

**Rummage Clean-up begins!** Join us this Tuesday and Friday from 10AM to 5PM to pack up stuff and bring it to Goodwill & Salvation Army. This will continue Tues & Fri until the gym is empty!

**St. Peter's UCC Skokie & Evanston Pride present 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche** - Saturday, Oct 28th at 5pm in the Memorial Room followed by Q&A with the actors and food! St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie and Evanston Pride have partnered to present 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, brought to you by Mosaic Players, a traveling theatre troupe whose work embraces social justice, human rights, and equality. Enter our basement on this fall afternoon and you will find members of the

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Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein, a coterie of egg-headed widows gathering to eat

quiche and kvetch in this absurdly adorable and unapologetic declaration of lesbi-independence. This show is interactive ... guests are invited to dress in 50's garb and put on a "Hello, my name is"

nametag when they arrive! After the performance, there will be a Q&A with the cast and a light meal of quiche and desserts for the audience. Come join us for an evening of fun, food, and the fabulous '50s like you've never seen them before! Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased ahead of time. This QR code will take you to the place to purchase them!



**COMING UP:** On Thursday, October 5th, Pastor's morning will be at the monthly gathering of our CMA's Cluster 1; this month at the 1st Congregational Church of Wilmette. Also, the ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee meets at church at 6:30 PM.

**On Saturday, October 7th,** there will be a Church Clean-up Day, from 10 AM to 1 PM; come when you can and leave when you have to. We're thinking of focusing on the Memorial Room for this day.

**On Sunday, October 8th (next week),** the Board for Christian Education meets after worship. That same evening, our Micah 6:8 Committee is hosting a soup-n-study event: we'll break bread, view the recording of Rev. John Dorhauer's speech about the dangers of Christian nationalism to the church and the country, and discuss it with each other. This event is open to all; it starts at 5 and ends at 7 PM.

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# Our People

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**Happy birthday / anniversary!** Having a birthday this week are Nicole Miller, Jackie Johnson's son Doug, Gretchen Sterba and Diane Meggs' husband Winfield (Willie). Richard and Mandy Steegmueller and Chad McCoy and Peggy Reins celebrate wedding anniversaries this week! May they all be aware of the blessings of the Lord.

**According to the schedule**, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Karen Christianson and the Nursery attendant will be Mike Ryan.

**The United Church of Christ has a new President and General Minister!** The Rev. John Dorhauer served as long as allowed, and elected at General Synod over the summer is the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson! She previously served as Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, Wider Church Ministries and Operations.

Our Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance and Praise are reprinted from Bread for the Journey (Resources for Worship), Ruth C. Duck ed.; Copyright 1981 The Pilgrim Press.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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# Regular Reminders!

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**About Communion:** We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. We do ask our St. Peter's young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers which are in a separate cup as they cannot touch the other wafers. The Board of Elders would like to ask that attendees on Communion Sundays please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service, and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings** to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**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. Our Deacon will pick them up after worship. Please fill them out; having a record of your being with us is important to us! Thank you.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!**

Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**October 1, 2023**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

**God's Sustaining Presence**

**Neighbors in Need Offering**

**World Communion Sunday**

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer. Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

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The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?”

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, “What shall I do with the people?”

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to “live the questions.” Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?

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**Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**1 Peter 3:13-18**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your

conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

### **Matthew 14:22-33**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."