



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Jennifer Grimelli: Interim Rector

The Venerable Denise Schiavone: Deacon

Tom Hesson: Music Director

Kathy Scherer: Organist

The Great Easter Vigil

April 4, 2026

Welcome to St. Peter's. We are glad you are here!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to St. Peter's Church to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter together. Restrooms are located through the door to the right of the lectern in the hallway. There are also bathrooms downstairs in St. Joseph's Hall.

St. Peter's has Wi-Fi available near the front of the church on **StPeters-GUEST**. The password is **AveMaria!**

The Great Vigil of Easter is the liturgy intended as the first celebration of Easter in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 284-95). The service begins in darkness, sometime between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter. On Maundy Thursday the entire church is darkened by extinguishing all candles and lamps. This represents the darkness of a world without God. At the opening of the Easter Vigil a "new fire" is lit and blessed. The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world.

Through this liturgy, we engage in an ancient practice of keeping the Easter feast. Believers would gather in the hours of darkness ending at dawn on Easter to hear scripture and offer prayer. This night-long service of prayerful watching anticipated the baptisms that would come at first light and the Easter Eucharist. Easter was the primary baptismal occasion for the early church to the practical exclusion of all others. This practice linked the meanings of Christ's dying and rising to the understanding of baptism.

Prelude

More Love to Thee

Ann Slowins

The Service of Light

In the darkness, fire is kindled. The Celebrant says

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

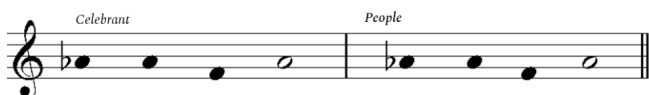
The Celebrant marks the Paschal Candle with these words:

Jesus Christ yesterday and today	(as the vertical arm of the cross is traced)
The beginning and the end	(the horizontal arm)
Alpha	(A above the cross)
and Omega	(Ω below the cross)
All time belongs to Christ	(2, upper left corner of the cross)
and all the ages	(0, upper right corner)
To Christ be glory and power	(2, lower left corner)
through every age for ever. Amen	(6, lower right corner)

The Celebrant then places the five nails into the Paschal candle with the following prayer:

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire. The Celebrant, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing.



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

(Acolytes will assist in lighting the congregation's candles from the Paschal Candle.)

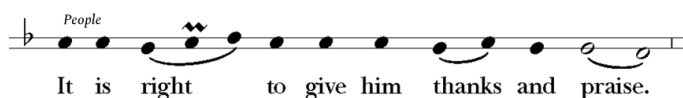
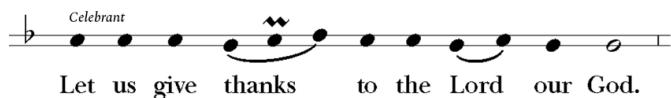
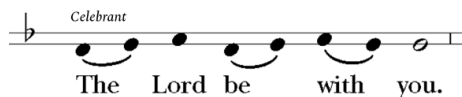
The Exsultet

Then the following is sung:

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

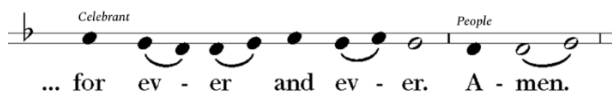
Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor,
or darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.



The Celebrant continues:

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people. This is the night when you brought our forebears, the children of Ancient Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night when all who believe in Christ, are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son. How holy is this night when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined, and we are reconciled with God. Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns.



The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings, saying

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The congregation may extinguish their candles and be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.

And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.



- 1 GIVE THANKS to the Lord, for *he* is good, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 2 Give thanks to the *God* of gods, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 3 Give thanks to the *Lord* of lords, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 4 Who only *does* great won-ders, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 5 Who by wisdom *made* the heav-ens, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 6 Who spread out the earth up-*on* the wa-ters, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 7 Who creat-*ed* great lights, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 8 The sun to *rule* the day, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 9 The moon and the stars to gov-*ern* the night, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 23 Who remembered us in our *low es-tate*, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 24 And delivered us *from* our en-e[^]mies, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 25 Who gives food *to* all crea-tures, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.
- 26 Give thanks to the *God* of heav-en, *
for his mercy endures *for ev-er*.

Let us pray

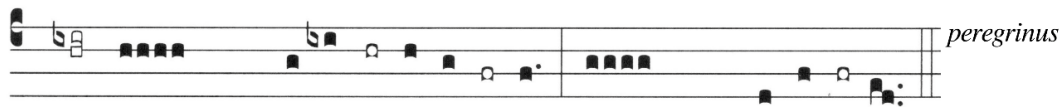
Silence

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:
Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading

Exodus 14:10-31;15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."



- 1 I will sing to the Lord, for he is lof-ty and up-lift-ed; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled *in-to* the sea.
- 2 The Lord is my *strength* and my ref-uge; *
the Lord has be-come *my* Sav-ior.
- 3 This is my God *and* I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will *ex*-alt him.
- 4 The Lord is *a* might-y war-rior; *
Yah-*weh* is his Name.
- 5 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has *he* hurled *in-to* the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor
have been drowned in *the* Red Sea.
- 6 The fathomless deep *has* over-whelmed them; *
they sank into the *dē*pths like a stone.
- 7 Your right hand, O Lord, *is* glo-rious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown *the* en-emy.
- 8 Who can be compared with you, O Lord, a-mong the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and work-er of won-ders?
- 9 You *stretched* forth your right hand; *
the earth swal-*lowed* them up.
- 10 With your constant love you led *the* peo-ple you re-deemed; *
with your might you brought them in
safety to your ho-ly dwel-ling.
- 11 You will bring *them* in and plant them *
on the mount of your *pos*-ses-sion,
- 12 The resting-place you have *made* for your-self, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has *es*-tab-lished.
- 13 — *The* Lörd shall reign *
for ever and *for* ev-er.

Let us pray

Silence

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

- 1 SURE-LY, it is *God* who saves me; *
I will trust in him and *nöt* be [^]a-fraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold *and* my sure [^]de-fense, *
and he will *be* my Sav-ior.
- 3 Therefore you shall draw water *with* re-joic-ing *
from the *springs* of [^]sal-va-tion.
- 4 And on that *day* you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and *call* up-on [^]his Name;
- 5 Make his deeds known a-mong the peo-ples; *
see that they remember that his *Name* is [^]ex-alt-ed.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for *he* has [^]done great things, *
and this is *known* in all [^]the world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion; *ring* out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy *One* of Is [^]ra-el.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.



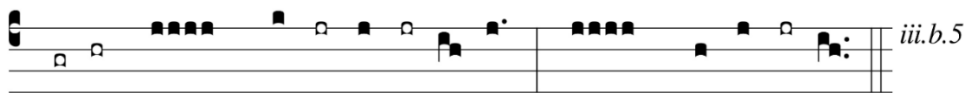
- 1 LORD, HĒAR my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my *sup*-pli-ca-tions; *
answer me *in* your right-eous[^]ness.
- 2 Enter not into judgment *with* your serv-ant, *
for in your sight shall no one liv-*ing* be jus-ti[^]fied.
- 3 For my enemy has sought my life;
he has *crushed* me to[^]the ground; *
he has made me live in dark places like those *who* are long dead.
- 4 My spirit *faints* with-in me; *
my heart within *me* is des-o[^]late.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon *all* () your deeds; *
I consider the *works* of your hands.
- 6 I spread out my *hands* () to you; *
my soul gasps to you *like* a thirst-y[^]land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my *spir*-it fails me; *
do not hide your face from me
or I shall be like those who go *döwn* to the[^]Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for I put my *trust* () in you; *
show me the road that I must walk,
for I lift *up* my soul to[^]you.
- 9 Deliver me from my *en*-e-mies,[^]O Lord, *
for I flee to *you* for ref-uge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for *you* are my God; *
let your good Spirit lead *me* on lev-el[^]ground.
- 11 Revive me, O Lord, *for* your Name's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me *out* of trou-ble.
- 12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies
and bring *all* my foes[^]to naught, *
for truly I *am* your serv-ant.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

- 1 O SING to the *Lord* a new song, *
for he has *done* mar[^]v'lous things.
- 2 With his right hand *and* his[^]ho-ly arm *
has he won for himself *the* vic[^]to-ry.
- 3 The Lord has made *known* his[^]vic-to-ry; *
his righteousness has he openly shown
in the sight of *the* na-tions.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the *house* of[^]Is-ra-el, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory *of* our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the *Lord*, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, *re-joice*,[^] and sing.
- 6 Sing to the *Lord* with the harp, *
with the harp and *the* voice[^]of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the *sound* of the horn *
shout with joy before *the* King,[^] the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and *all* that[^]is in it, *
the lands and those *who* dwell[^]there-in.
- 9 Let the *riv-ers*[^]clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes *to* judge[^]the earth.
- 10 In righteousness *shall* he[^]judge the world *
and the peoples *with* eq[^]ui-ty.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The congregation stands as they are able. The celebrant addresses the congregation saying

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People ***I do.***

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People ***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 to the dead. 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.***

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People ***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.***

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Thanksgiving Over The Water

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who have been cleansed from sin and born again in Baptism may remember their vows, deepen their discipleship and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Asperging of Congregation

As a reminder of our baptism, the Celebrant will sprinkle the congregation with the blessed water.

Easter Proclamation

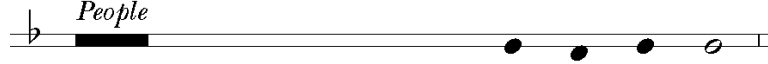
Hymnal S-72

Celebrant



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People



The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

As the Gloria is sung, the altar is set and the candles are lit.

Song of Praise

Gloria

Hymnal S-202

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.
8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou
on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - - - - - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***Amen.***

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The following response follows the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The congregation stands as able for the sequence hymn.

Sequence Hymn

Good Christians all rejoice

Hymnal 205

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

All remain standing for the procession and proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

At the end of the Gospel reading, the Priest and people say the following responsory:

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Homily

The Rev. Jennifer N. Grimelli

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The congregation remains seated for the Offertory. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine to the presider. The presider prepares the altar as the Offertory Hymn is sung.

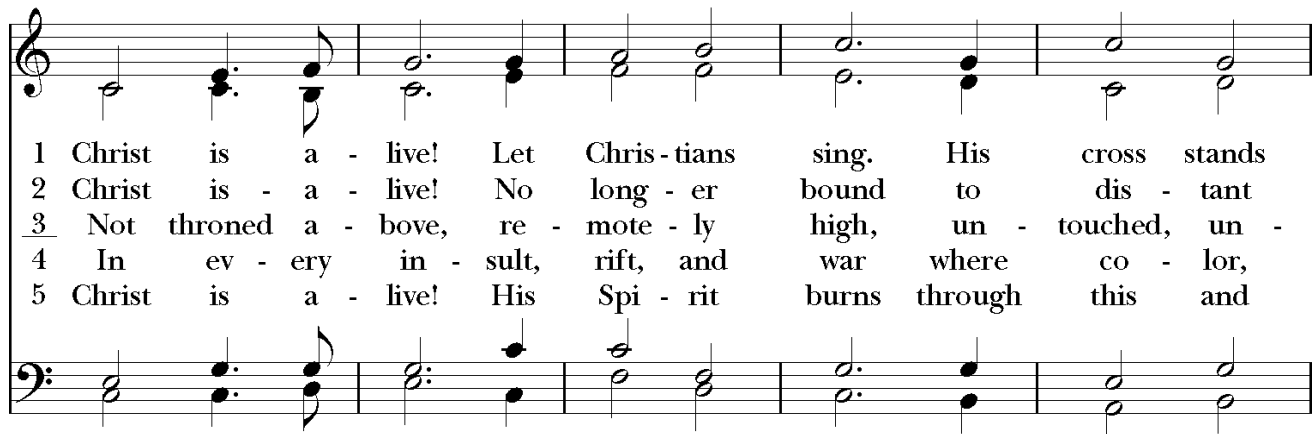
Offertory Sentence "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." (Romans)

The congregation stands as they are able and sing the following hymn:

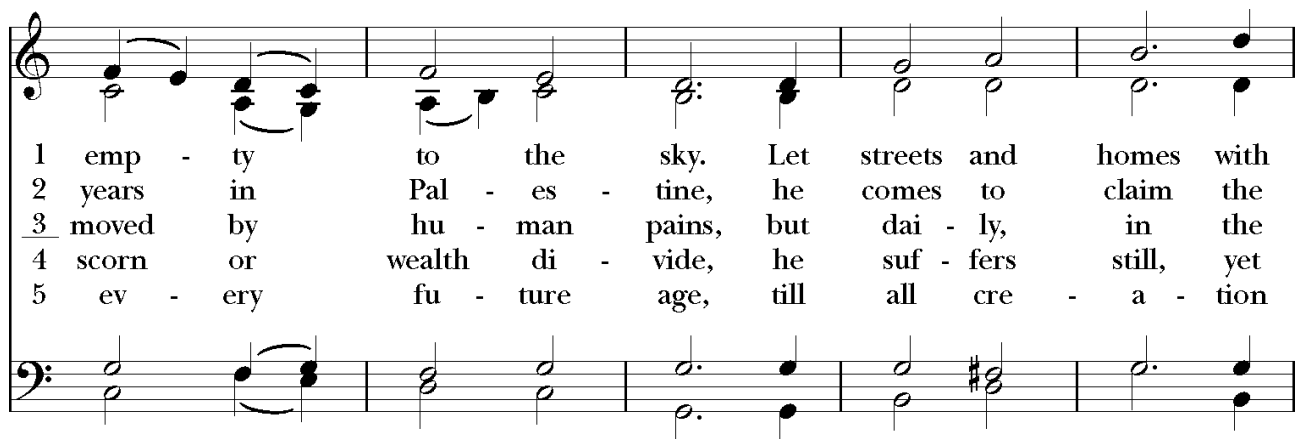
Presentation Hymn

Christ is Alive!

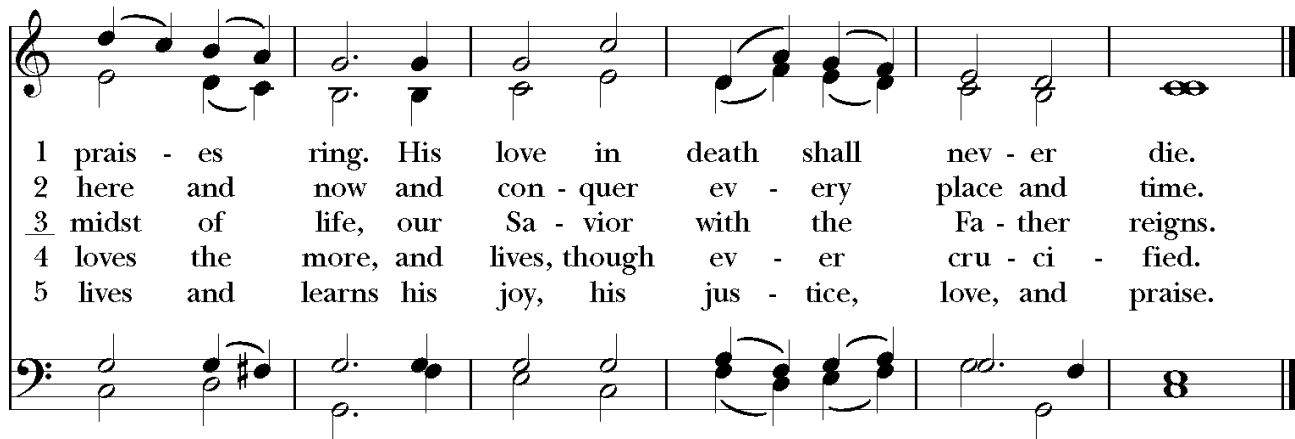
Hymn 182



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and



1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion



1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues the prayer in thanksgiving for God's redemption of the world in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues by invoking the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon the Bread and Wine and among the people gathered.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Sean and Carrie, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and all those who work for justice freedom and peace.

Remember the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.

Remember the sick and the suffering and all who care for them.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Peter and all the saints who have found favor

with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Christ Our Passover

Hymnal S-155

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitation to Communion

In the Episcopal Church, the normative practice is that Holy Communion is offered to all baptized persons. At St. Peter's, we welcome everyone to the Lord's Table, just as Jesus did. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are invited to come forward. Bread and wine are offered; you may receive either or both. **Gluten-free bread is available upon request** – please inform a minister before the service or as you come forward. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward. Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a blessing. If you have mobility concerns and are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you in your seat. **All are welcome at the Lord's Table.**

Communion Alleluia

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

Postlude

Festival Prelude on Coronation

Elizabeth Krouse

Please join us downstairs immediately following the service for a reception.





Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory of

Elizabeth & Peter Alfonsi
Sandy Antlitz
Barbara Baker
Ronald Baker
Mary Beth Blasetti
Richard Chiroff
Dorthory Forsyth
Robert and Lillian Guthland
Colleen & Nick Hickman
Paige Parsells
Hopeton & Linda Powell
Anna and Charles Pryor
Harry Putnam
Murial Ray Qualls
Kenneth G. Ritter
Parker R. Scott
John M. Shaw
Pauline Shaw
Vincent and Edith Timol
B.J. Wilson
Patricia Irene Wilson

In Thanksgiving for

The Darren Ritter Family
"Remembering my family" - Patti Shaffer



Parish Prayer List

The Church: Sean, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Carrie, our Bishop; Jennifer, our Interim Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Vestry and Officers: Bill Rodney (Senior Warden), John Francis (Junior Warden), Katie Shaw (Registrar), Doug Pryor (Treasurer), Sara Radcliffe, Kimberly Jones, Joshua Bombino, Mary Milano, Jonnie Widener, Nicole Busch.

Recent Needs: The Weimer-Busch family, The Baird Family, John Bowers, Evan Jones, Rita Buckingham, Mrs. Nancy Guthrie, Rose Powell, Angela Mitchell.

(Names remain on the Recent Needs Prayer List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Ongoing Needs: Walt Geffert, Ron & Estella Krastel, Charles Pryor and family, Lauren Nalls, Bob Williams, Earl Markowicz, Sue and Steve Hartlaub

(Names remain on the Ongoing Needs Prayer List for 90 days unless notified otherwise.)

Homebound Members: Irene & Walter Closson, Sylvia Ellison, Brenda Sabino.

Rest of the Soul: Don Weimer, Pamela V. Bowers, Doreen Heron.

(Names remain on the Rest of the Soul Prayer List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list or have an announcement featured here? Please submit names/announcements to the church office by email: parish.admin@stpetersec.org BY SUNDAY NIGHT.

LOOSE-PLATE OFFERINGS given in the plate that are not designated will go to support the following
1st Sunday—Discretionary Fund, 2nd Sunday—Outreach Fund, 3rd-5th Sundays—General Operating

WANT AN EASY WAY TO DONATE? DO IT ONLINE WITH TITHE.LY!

Make a one-time donation or set up regular giving. Tithe.ly allows for ACH transfers from your bank account, or payments with Debit, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If you choose to cover the transaction fees, that is also counted as part of your donation for tax purposes. Scan the QR code from your Smartphone or visit: stpetersec.org/give



CONNECT WITH US:

We would love to connect with you! Whether it is your first time here or you simply need to update your information, scan the QR code or fill out the connection card in the pew. We look forward to getting to know you!

SERVING THIS WEEK			
Altar Guild	Kofo Coker, Diana Pon	Acolyte	Joshua Bombino
Lector 1	Stan Brown	Lector 2	Tom Donohue
Lector 3	Alexa Fair	Usher	Mary Milano
Celebrant	The Rev. Jennifer Grimelli	Thurifer	Stan Brown
Preacher	The Rev. Jennifer Grimelli	Livestream/AV	Katherine Schnorrenberg



St. Peter's is the historic parish church for Old Ellicott City, seeking the Real Presence of Christ through sacramental worship, genuine spiritual community, and justice-oriented service.