

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Rev. Fr. Samuel Ndungu, Rector + The Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon + Derek Maninfor, Music Director

The Fifth Sunday of Easter + May 10, 2020

Mission Statement: We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you." **Vision Statement:** Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter *All stand*

Officiant Lord open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Phoebe and Tre Foerster

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading: Acts 7:55-460

Danielle Love

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they

dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2–10

Matt, Anette, Alexandra, M.J., Julia Kiernan

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 14:1–14

Mona Chylack, Kent, Jolie, Catherine, Jeremy, Leo, Christian Wenger

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Mother's Day Reflections **Karen, Emma and Rebecca Martz**
Shelly, Will and Ella Brennfleck

Sermon

Fr. Sam

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Thank you for the love of our mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, wives, partners, god mothers, play mothers and friends for their care and concern; for the joys they have shared with us; for the pains they have borne for us; for all that they give us; and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love. Let your love be present in every home, and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful and Triune God, we come to you in our weakness. We come to you in our fear. We come to you with trust. For you alone are our hope. We place before you the disease present in our world. We turn to you in our time of need. Bring wisdom to doctors. Give understanding to scientists. Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity. Bring healing to those who are ill. Protect those who are most at risk. Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one. Welcome those who have died into your eternal home. Stabilize our communities. Unite us in our compassion. Remove all fear from our hearts. Fill us with confidence in your care. Oh Lord our God; **Amen.**

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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Please Continue to Support St. Peter's Church: During the current emergency situation it is as important as ever for parishioners to maintain their pledge contributions, if that is feasible. We all know that jobs and incomes may be impacted by this situation, so the request is to sustain giving if you can. In order to make that as easy as possible, St. Peter's has an online system called Realm to enable direct giving to suit your needs, either one-time payments or ongoing scheduled payments. If you would like to register to use the Realm system please send an email to Vestry accounting warden Frank Rothenberger at franklin.rothenberger@gmail.com. Pledges may also continue to be mailed to the church office.