

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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

The Seventh Sunday of Easter + May 24, 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.

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.**

The Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Deacon Joe Dietz

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflections

Alex, Michael, Jeremy, Stephanie

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.

Lord's Prayer ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

We pray for our graduates today and lift them before you. We thank you so much for these we love and for the work you are continuing to do in their lives. They are a gift to us and to many others. During this season of new beginnings, we ask that you would make their way clear. We ask that you would keep their footsteps firm and remind them that you are with them, always. May they sense the freshness of your Spirit over their lives in amazing ways, may they be strengthened and instilled with hope, for the new road they are taking.

We pray for protection in their coming and going. We ask that you would help them to live aware in a dark world and keep harm or evil intent far away. We ask that you would hide them in the safety of your powerful presence. During the times of anxiety, fear and uncertainty. We pray that they are filled with your courage and strength, that they may be a light to their friends and neighbors. Be a lamp for their feet, and a light to their path. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day ***O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.**

St. Peter's 2020 Graduating Class.

Alex Shawhan Fox.

- Graduating from Coatesville Area High School with Honors
- Earned a full scholarship to Elizabethtown College
- Will study Physics
- Looking forward to becoming a Blue Jay

Michael Logar.

- Graduated from The Hill School in Pottstown PA.
- Michael is attending Drexel University in the fall
- Plans to major in Sports Business and minor in economics.

Jeremy Wenger.

- Graduating from Renaissance Academy Charter School
- Heading to Olin College in Needham, MA
- To study Mechanical Engineering.

Jake Schaefer.

- B.S in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State University.
- Life-long member of St. Peters as we joined when he was 2.
- This Sunday is actually his 24th birthday.
- He's currently working 2 part-time jobs while applying for full-time engineering positions during this challenging work environment.

Stephanie Logar.

- Graduated from the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC.
- Stephanie received a BA in Marketing and Communications.
- Next step is securing a public relations or social media marketing position with a fashion brand in New York City.

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.