



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent + 14 March 2021

WELCOME to St. Peter's Church. We are glad you are here! The clergy and laity welcome all joining us for worship this morning in the Name of Christ. If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy and sign our guest book and give us a chance to get to know you. Please, join us in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward to the communion rail, stand or kneel to receive the bread in your hand. If you wish to receive only a blessing, cross your hands over your heart and the Priest will bless you.

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.

+ We Gather In God's Presence +

[Silence for prayer and preparation] [* indicates all standing - + indicates all kneeling - **indicates all sitting]

Prelude

*Hymn 686 *Come, thou fount of every blessing* Nettleton

Celebrant Blessed be God who forgives all our sins. **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Trisagion **S102** [sung 3 times] **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

+ 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.**

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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. [Collect of the Day] **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

+ We Listen To The Word Of God +

First Reading – Numbers 21:4–9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- ² Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- ³ He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷ Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- ¹⁸ They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- ²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- ²¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- ²² Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 691 *My faith looks up to thee*

Olivet

The Gospel - John 3:14-21 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

[following the reading] The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: Fr. Sam [Following the sermon, please observe a few moments of silence]

*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

+ We Ask God To Listen To Our Prayers +

+ I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Rodney, our Assisting Bishop; for this gathering; for all ministers, especially Sam our Rector; David, our retired priest; Joseph, our Deacon; and for all people. Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray especially for Joseph, the President of our nation; Antonio, the Secretary General of the UN, Tom, the Governor of our Commonwealth and the men and women who are serving in our armed forces. We pray for all the international efforts in protecting our planet from wars and violence, deadly diseases and global warming, let us pray to the Lord.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the unemployed, the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed, human trafficked, those in prison, and the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers at our border and for all who remember and care for them. For the volunteers who serve at the pantry and the community meals here at St. Peter's and for Cristosal Foundation we support in El Salvador, we pray for all afflicted by the Coronavirus. We pray for the more than 400,000 families mourning the loss of a loved one. We pray for those who are sick, for essential workers and medical professionals, for all who suffer because of economic fallout and lost jobs, especially those who know hunger and homelessness. Be with our families and children and schools, seeking to navigate this difficult time, let us pray to the Lord. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died, especially Doris S. Mansley, Erne Morris, Susan Krezmienski and Freida Duechet. (you may add your own petitions)

I ask your prayers for those who are sick, or in any other adversity, especially **Harland, Peter, Liz, Dave, Laura, Shawn, Joan, Vernet, Greg and Lou.** (you may add your own petitions)

I ask your thanksgiving for Carrie Wanish, Sydney Alling, Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss and Frank who celebrate birthdays this week. (you may add your own petitions)

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *[The celebrant adds a concluding collect]*

The Peace	Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.
	Celebrant	Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
	Offertory	<i>Turn Thee to Me</i> [from Biblical Songs Op. 99] Marty Bloem, Soprano A. Dvorak
	Hymn 380 v. 3	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

+ We Share Holy Communion +

***The Great Thanksgiving** *[The people remain standing.]*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: Sanctus **S130 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

+ Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **S142 AMEN.**

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.***

Agnus Dei **S164 *Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace, give us your peace.***

+The Communion of the People Hymn 671 *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound* New Britain

+Post Communion Prayer Let us pray. ***Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

+ God Sends Us To Love and Serve Each Other +

+The Blessing

Announcements

* Hymn 690 *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* Cwm Rhondda

*Dismissal

Postlude

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Intercessions This Week - Please pray: • For those who are sick, or in any other adversity, Harland Johnson, Peter Fifer, Liz Fifer, David Brennfleck, Laura, Shawn, Joan Grunwell, Vernet Spence-Brown, Greg Schiele, Deacon Lou Steffenhagen • For the men and women who are serving in our armed forces. • For those with whom we give thanks, Carrie Wanish, Sydney Alling, Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss and Frank Rothenberger who celebrate a birthday this week. • For all who have died especially Doris S. Mansley, Ernie Morris, Susan Krezmienski and Freida Duechet.

People at St. Peter's

The Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez **Rector:** The Rev. Fr. Samuel Ndungu: 302-252-8152 kirabisam@gmail.com

Retired Clergy: The Rev. David Hyatt

Deacon: The Rev. Joseph Dietz: JoesFrames@Comcast.net; Liaison to Vestry: Fellowship, Adult Forum

Music Director: Derek Maninfor: dtmaninfor@gmail.com **Parish Secretary:** Judith Dougherty: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

Vestry:	Liaison Position:	Contact Information:	
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