



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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## The Fourth Sunday of Easter - 25 April 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.*

Prelude

\*Hymn 376 *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

Hymn to Joy

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts 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.**

Glory to God S280 **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Collect of the Day **O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

+ We Listen To The Word Of God + *[please be seated]*

\*\*First Reading - Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

\*\*Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

\*\*Second Reading – 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

\*Hymn 208

*The strife is o'er*

Victory

\*The Gospel - John 10:11-18      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

[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.**

+ Prayers of the People + [kneeling]

+ Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially: 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; **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, remembering 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. Pray for all those who struggle for freedom and justice around the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake. Pray for our pantry, clinic and outreach ministries in their work in our neighborhood. Pray for our mission work through Cristosal Foundation in Central America. Pray for those in any need or trouble. **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; remembering **John, Pat, Harland, Peter, Liz, Laura, Shawn, Joan, Vernet, Greg and Lou.** **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest; remembering especially Frank Blanche. **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I ask your thanksgiving for Nigel Jenkins, Joyce Paster, Brian Martz, Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger, Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee and Clara Boone who celebrate birthdays this week; John and Beverly Burkhardt, Christopher and

Megan Wilson who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week. **Grant that they may continue to experience your love and guidance in the years to come.**

[The celebrant adds a concluding collect]

+Confession and Absolution 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 Peace [All stand facing center aisle] [please be seated following the peace]

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory

Hymn 380 vs. 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 **S128 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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: **S135 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. **S146 AMEN.**

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

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.**

Christ our Passover **S155 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his**

*blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

+The Communion of the People

Hymn 664 *My Shepherd will supply my need*

Resignation

+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, John Burkhardt, Pat Howse, Harland Johnson, Peter Fifer, Liz Fifer, 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 especially, Nigel Jenkins, Joyce Paster, Brian Martz, Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger, Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee and Clara Boone who celebrate birthdays this week; John and Beverly Burkhardt, Christopher and Megan Wilson who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week.. • For all who have died, especially Frank Blanche.

***People at St. Peter's Episcopal Church***

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