

# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLY EUCHARIST

APRIL 28, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.

## WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH

*A warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors! We are delighted that you are here. Everyone is welcome in this community of faith. Please help us get to know you by filling out a welcome card found in the pews or available from an usher. After you fill it out, please give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.*

## PRELUDE

Improvisation

*Anthony Hammond*

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

BLUE HYMNAL N° 518

## ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* The Lord is here.

*People* His Spirit is with us.

## THE GLORIA

BLUE HYMNAL S278

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40**

*Lector* A reading from the book of Acts

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 22:24-30** *Deus, Deus meus*

ANTIPHON

*(The choir sings the antiphon and the people repeat it)*



Praise the Lord your God; he rules over the nations.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.  
To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.  
My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**ANTIPHON**

**SECOND LESSON: 1 John 4:7-21**

*Lector* A reading from the first letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

BLUE HYMNAL N° 489

**ALLELUIA**

*All sing*

*Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir* Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.  
*All* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

*Priest* Listen to the Good News proclaimed in the Gospel of John  
*People* **Glory to Christ our Savior.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*Priest* The Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
*People* **Praise to Christ our Savior.**

*All repeat* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Bill Allport

**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

*Intercessor* In peace, we pray to you, O God. For all people in their daily life and work;

*People* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Intercessor* For this community, the nation, and the world;

*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Intercessor* For the just and proper use of your creation;

*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Intercessor* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Intercessor* For all who are called to serve as clergy and for all of the St. Peter's ministries

*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Intercessor* We pray for special needs and concerns of this congregation. . . .  
(we invite you to add your own petitions either silently or aloud)

*Intercessor* Hear us, Lord;

*People* **For your mercy is great**

*Intercessor* We will exalt you, O God our King;

*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died including those that we name now. . . . that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Intercessor* God, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*Intercessor* Jesus, Risen one, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always.

*People* **Amen**

#### THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: 'O quam gloriosum'

*Tomás Luis de Victoria*

DOXOLOGY (Verse 3)

BLUE HYMNAL N° 380

**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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

*(BCP, p. 367)*

*Please stand as you are able*

### SURSUM CORDA

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 & BENEDICTUS

BLUE HYMNAL S128

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...

Therefore, according to his command

*Celebrant & People*      **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant continues:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.....

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.

*People*            **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant*      And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People*            **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. 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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant*      Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People*            **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### AGNUS DEI

BLUE HYMNAL S165

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

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant*      The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Communion will be distributed either in person at the crossing or at the High Altar. Please sit and wait for an usher to guide you. Gluten free wafers and wine are available; inform the clergy if you need them. If you would like a blessing please cross your hands over your chest. All are welcome to drink from the common Chalice or hand your wafer to the Chalice Bearer for intinction.*

### A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*We invite those who are at home to pray the Anima Christi during Communion.*  
Jesus, may all that is in you flow into me. May your body and blood be my food and drink. May your passion and death be my strength and life. May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross. Let me not run from the love you extend. Hold me safe from the forces of evil. On each of my dyings shed your light and your love. Until with your saints may I praise you forever. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

‘I give you a new commandment’  
‘Jesu, joy of man’s desiring’

*Peter Aston*  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal God, 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 Savior. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLOSING HYMN

BLUE HYMNAL N° 657

## DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth walking in the light of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

## POSTLUDE

Crown Imperial

*William Walton (arr. Murrill)*

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Thank you for joining us today for worship!*

## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

*Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev. Dr. Bill Allport

*Director of Music:* Dr. Anthony Hammond



## **PRAYERS FOR THE ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY**

Alex, Bob, Emily, Meghan, Merri, Nick, Rick, Inez Baker, Alan and Kathy Bowen, Eli Chasid, Mickey Clair, Peter Darlington, Bruce Dykes, Faith Eckler, Gail Compton Flynn, Jean Galbraith, Emden Gansner, Ann Marie Gutjahr, Hope Hazen, George Lonsberry, Robert and Phyllis Mitchell, Roger Morgan, Alan and Joann Painter, Howard and Patty Paulman, Shirley Phillips, The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, Maria Rossel, Walter Schierle, Howie Stein, Tina Stewart, The Rev. Anne Thatcher, Barbara and Charles Trillich, Claire Walker

### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

René Raul Trespalacios  
Geraldine Hildebrand

### **ST. PETER'S MINISTRIES**

Nourish NJ  
Music at St. Peter's

### **FLOWERS**

We give grateful thanks to the family of René Trespalacios, whose funeral took place in St. Peter's yesterday, for the donation of the flowers in our sanctuary this morning.

**2024 SAVE THE DATE**

May 5th Meet the Vestry candidates coffee hour in Parish Hall  
May 5th 6:00 pm Choral Evensong  
May 18th Documentary Screening: The Philadelphia Eleven  
May 19th Pentecost International Potluck  
June 2nd 12:00 pm Parish Annual Meeting



**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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