



# *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

*A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing*

[www.stpeters-smyrna.org](http://www.stpeters-smyrna.org)

**Sunday, April 25, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.**

## **Announcements**

**Reminder: Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline to turn in the Flags for Hero's forms with money to the Church Office. Thank you to those who have already done so.

**Wednesday Healing Service** has started back up at 10:00AM in the Sanctuary. Safety protocols for COVID-19 will be followed. Advanced sign-up not required.

The "Spire Newsletter" will once again be coming out monthly to your email. I will mail out to those of you who do not have an email address as long as you let me know. Also, if you have information you would like added in, please feel free to email it to me and I will try my best to get it in.

Harvest Sharing (Outreach) Opportunity: In April, St. Peter's has been collecting food and/or monetary donations (checks need to be made out to St. Peter's Church with "Food Pantry" in the memo line) for the Smyrna/Clayton Food Pantry. Food or Funds can be dropped off at St. Peter's during Sunday Services or during Office Hours. To give online, click [HERE](#). **In the Fund box, scroll down to bottom to select **OUTREACH** and then in Memo line type *Food Pantry*.**

**COVID-19 Updates:** All Delawareans 16+ are now eligible.

\*Though you are eligible now, it may still take a few weeks to make a vaccination appointments.

\* Persons 16 & 17 years old are only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine – check the vaccine being offered at each site closely.

\* If you need an accommodation because of a disability, contact the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-643-1715 (select option 3), or email [vaccine@delaware.gov](mailto:vaccine@delaware.gov). The Call Center may also connect you to the DHSS Aging and Disability Resource Center.

For more answers go to [www.Delaware.gov](http://www.Delaware.gov) where there is plenty of COVID information.

The Episcopal Church in Delaware has a COVID-19 response page that can be found by following this link: <https://delaware.church/covid-19-response/>.

Our Church Office is open by Appointment. Please call the office (302-653-9691) Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:30PM or contact Mo. Donna Jean (302-670-3800). Please do not hesitate to call if you need something.



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## **Fourth Sunday of Easter The Holy Eucharist Rite One Sunday, April 25, 2021**

### The Word of God

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>5</sup>The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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**

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

*Priest*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*           **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.”

*Priest*           The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*           **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

### **THE SERMON**

#### **THE 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.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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;  
*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;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*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.

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

### *All things come of thee, O Lord...*

The Vestry of St. Peter's, wishes to thank all who are able to maintain their pledges and gifts to the Church during these challenging times. Offerings may be mailed to the Church office or made online using the information included:

To financial contribute to our ministry, click on <https://onrealm.org/StPetersSmyrna/Give> to give online *OR* text **RISENCHRIST \$amount** (ex: RISENCHRIST \$30) to **73256** to give by phone. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

*Celebrant:* All things come of Thee, O Lord

*People:* **And of Thine Own, have we given Thee. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

**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.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. **If you are watching from home, please say the following prayer:***

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.***

### **BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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## **Participants**

Celebrant: The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Rector

Reader: Terri Anderson

**Thank you** for worshipping virtually with *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* in Smyrna, Delaware this morning! Your presence and participation are important to us.

The video of this service will be posted to our Facebook page at **St. Peters Smyrna** as well as on the homepage of our website: [www.stpeters-smyrna.org](http://www.stpeters-smyrna.org).

**Stewardship Reflection:** Easter 4 Hired hand or shepherd? Jesus says the hired hand runs away because he does not really care for the sheep. The shepherd, on the other hand, will lay down his own life for his flock. Do we run away from service to others, or are we willing to give of our own lives in the name of the God who loves us, and gave His all for us?

### Prayers for this Week

All Members and Friends who have asked for our prayers

*Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* St. Martha's Church, Bethany Beach

*Anglican Cycle of Prayer:* The Anglican Church of Canada

*Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium Cycle of Prayer:* St. Polycarp's Church

*Parish Cycle of Prayer:* Bonnie Forgacs  
Allison & Tom Gallo

*Welfare of the World:* Healing for all those infected with the Coronavirus; Consolation for Loved Ones of those who have Died during this pandemic; For the efficient and widespread distribution of the vaccines and medication to help those who are ill; and ALL medical staff and First Responders.

## **Aumbry Candle**

Given to the Glory of God