



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 - 6:00 A.M.

EASTER DAY AT SUNRISE



Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Welcome to St. Peter's Episcopal Church. I am glad that you are here for this time of worship and praise of God on this Easter Day! What brings us to this wonderful celebration is the reality that Jesus Christ, the one that even death could not hold on to, is out there and is right here with you and me. The promise of his resurrection from the dead is that we can face tomorrow and every day of our lives without fear and we can move forward with confidence and with hope. As you worship and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, may God bless and keep you. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

For more information about St. Peter's, please visit our website at specstl.org. And for questions about how to connect with us, please email us at office@specstl.org.

Easter blessings,

*The Rev. David Hodges
Rector*

*The cover art is a replication of The Resurrection, created by monks
in the Cell of St. John the Theologian Holy Monastery of Koutloumousiou in Mount Athos, Greece.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE AND CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

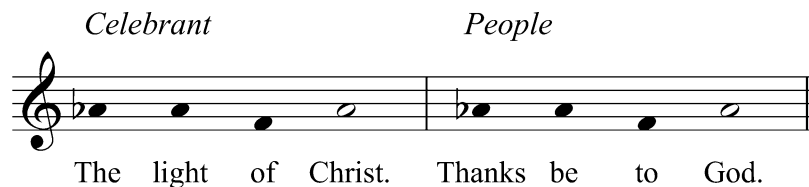
Celebrant Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which the Church gathers to celebrate and rejoice that our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing God's Word and remembering our Baptism, we share in Christ's victory over death.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is blessed. A new fire is kindled from which the Paschal Candle is lit.

The following is sung three times, each time a step higher.



During the portion of the Exsultet that follows, we share the Light of Christ.

Priest Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Zack Rugenstone

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector The Lord has destroyed the shroud that is cast over all people; he has swallowed up death forever. Let us pray to the risen Lord for the Church and the world, saying, "Let us give thanks to the Lord; / He is our salvation."

Lector We pray for the holy Church of God, remembering Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; and the clergy and ministry leaders of St. Peter's. May the Church always proclaim that God's mercy endures for ever. Let us give thanks to the Lord;

People **He is our salvation.**

Lector We pray for the leaders of all nations, and we pray for peace in all places. May all people come to the feast on the mountain prepared by the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord;

People **He is our salvation.**

Lector We pray for this parish and community, especially for those who are ill, those who sorrow, and those with any distress. Let those who have waited on God sing with joy. Let us give thanks to the Lord;

People **He is our salvation.**

Lector We pray for the departed, as we wait for him who has gone before us, Christ our Lord, to come again in the glory of his resurrection. Hell has been harrowed; may all in the communion of saints receive eternal life. Let us give thanks to the Lord;

People **He is our salvation.**

Silence is kept.

Celebrant O Christ our Redeemer, when the angel rolled away the stone from the tomb you triumphed over death, and declared your resurrection first to the faithful women who sought you: May we have the same boldness to seek you now, that your victory over the grave would bring joy to our hearts and lead us to eternal life; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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 ET BENEDICTUS

All **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.**

Celebrant 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:

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

All **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,
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.**

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Please tell the clergy if you require gluten-free Bread.

*Crossing your arms over your chest will let the clergy know
you would like to receive a blessing but not the Bread and/or Wine.*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

The Paschal Candle is given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Jim and Betty Freeman,
by Steve and Cindy Bochantin

The Brass Quintet at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services is made possible by a gift
in honor of Henry, John, Thomas, Kate, Elizabeth, Ellen, and Nelson,
by their grandmother Judy Lozier

**EASTER PLANTS AND FLOWERS ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

In loving memory of Martha Bland, by her family

In loving memory of Ruford Hodges, Chuck Paul, and Vickie and Larry Bently,
By David and Lisa Hodges

In honor of Burton Hodges and Nicole Bentley, Mary Catherine Hodges and Tommy Hoffmann, and
Philip Hodges, by David and Lisa Hodges

In loving memory of Carmela and Ed Vredenburgh, Jean and Herb Barth, David Barth,
James E. Vredenburgh, Jr., and Roy Silbereisen,
and in honor of Ainsley, James, Ada, Izzy, Eddie, and Celia,
by Caren Vredenburgh

In loving memory of Nate Olk,
and in honor of Molly Olk, Hillary, Scott, Charlie, Alex, and Lizzie Dutcher,
By Wendy Olk

In loving memory of Steve Orthwein, Liam Orthwein, Nancy and Dolph Orthwein,
Nancy and David Metcalfe, and Gina and Bob Flynn, by the Stephen A. Orthwein Family

In thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren, by Ann and Andy Spann

In honor of their 56th wedding anniversary and Easter, by Kit and Kathy Baker

In loving memory of C.R. and Betty Jeanne Silvius, and Curtis and Betty Alloway,
by Gordon and Cyd Alloway

In honor of George, Palmer, Abbey, Joe, Robin and Kyle Migdal,
and Katie, George and Peter Knapp,
by Annie and Sam Migdal

In loving memory of Bill Wilson, by Eleanor, Mark, and Sam Wilson

In loving memory of R.K. Lohr, Jason Lohr, Jacquelyn Stamper, Bill Wilson, and Georgey Herron,
and in thanksgiving for the Wilson Family,
by Stacey & Bob Graves, together with Wilson & Kathryn, Campbell, Harper and Walker Graves

In loving memory of Charlotte Wiseman Parish, Ann Shafto Noel,
John Payne Noel, Jr. and Quinton Matthew Noel,
by John, Ann, John and Allie Parish

In loving memory of Lisa Peters Schiff, by Cindy and Sandy Peters

In loving memory of Annie and Pat Longo, by Tim and Didi Noelker

In loving memory of The Rev. V. Richard and F. Marie Carter, by Jeffrey Richard Carter

In thanksgiving for David Sinden and the St. Peter's Choir and Singers,
by Myrna and Jerry Wacker

In loving memory of Daniel A. Pickett, by John Hoover

In honor of Jerry Freeland, and in loving memory of Alice and Don Burst,
by Bonnie Freeland

In honor of their family, by Nancy and Mike Grimes

In loving memory of Ginger and Bill Cornelius, and Jane and Gene Davis,
by Jeanie and Clark Davis

In loving memory of Willard and Patsy Walker, and their beloved sister Jane Walker,
by the Walker Family

In loving memory of his parents, grandparents, and Patricia A. Aitken,
by S. William Aitken

In loving memory of Jane Scott "Timmie" Cullen, by S. William Aitken

In loving memory of Margaret Acker, Kent Reynolds, and Georgey Herron,
by Lisa and Tom Acker

In loving memory of Suzanne Forsyth, by Letah Carruthers

In honor of their family, by Brig and Merrill Buettner

In honor of all their children and nine grandchildren, by Maureen and Steve Bahn

In loving memory of Grace and Sam Susman, Charlie and Mildred Gulick, and Susie Van Cleve,
and in honor of their children and grandchildren, by Nancy and Dick Gulick

In loving memory of Elizabeth and David Newberg, and George F. Koob,
by Marilyn Koob

In appreciation of the kindness and help from the St. Peter's community, by John and Mydie Sant

In loving memory of his parents Elda and David Tribble, by David LeRoy Tribble

In honor of Charlotte Elizabeth Lane, Anders Henry Babington, and Caroline Ann Babington,
by Ann and Tom Babington

In honor of Bev Bouchard and 54 years of a very happy marriage, by Matt Bouchard

In loving memory of Dalton Huck, Dick and Dolly Huck, and Bill and Muffy Otto,
and in honor of Mary Ellen Kiske, by Rich and Kate Huck

In loving memory of Doug Horner, Audrey, Bill, and Barbara Smith, Alma and Bill Frank,
by Karen, Emily, and Meredith

In loving memory of Addison Tinsley and the Dale family, by Kathy Atwood

In loving memory of Kent Kirby Reynolds,
by Lisa, Kirby, and George Reynolds

In loving memory of Margaret Acker, by Lisa, Kirby, and George Reynolds

In thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren, by David and Elizabeth Puckett

In loving memory of The Rev. V. Richard and F. Marie Carter, by Jeffrey Richard Carter

In loving memory of Jason Lohr and Anita and Roy Beal,
and in honor of Wilson, Campbell, Harper, Walker, and Auggie,
by Connie Lohr

In loving memory of Howard H. Witsma, by George and Jean Saunders

In honor of Carter, Lola, Luke, August, and Blakeley, by Ken and Chris Heininger

With love and in honor of Reid, Ted, Ruthie, Graham, and Henry,
by Laurie and John Haffenreffer

In thanksgiving for Claire, Norah, and Julia Schettler, by Susan Schettler

In loving memory of Denny and Shirley Ivie, and Bill and Jane Boinest, and Eston Melton,
and in grateful thanksgiving for Peter, Emilee, Denny, Eloise, Georgia, Harrison,
Danielle, Lily, Christopher, Charles, Hopie, Nell, Robert, and Peggy Ann,
by Allan Ivie and Page Melton Ivie

In thanksgiving for their granddaughter Lillian Michele Bernard,
by Clark and Michele Thomas

In loving memory of Logan and Maxine Finerty, William and Elizabeth Craig,
Bill and George Craig, Marian Leick, by Robert and Jan Craig

In loving memory of Philip George, BJ and Grant Williams, Margaret and Bill George,
Richelle Weisbrod, Ty Carmichael, and Mark Sayers,
and in thanksgiving for their family and friends,
with love from Penny and the George, Carmichael, and Dunaway families



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