

# Come 4th Sunday!



The Third Sunday in Lent  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Glenside, Pennsylvania  
March 23, 2025  
10:00 A.M.

## About Come 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

At St. Peter's the fourth Sunday of the month is **Come 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**. It's a time when we come forth in new ways to celebrate being the Body of Christ.

Children come forth to read Scripture and lead prayer, and to get a better look at what's going on.

Families come forth to take on new roles.

New members come forth for a blessing.

We all come forth to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, and we all go forth as his disciples – with God's help.

The Scripture translations are from the resource *God's Word, my Voice*, by Lyn Zill Briggs, *Church Publishing: 2015*. They are written in a way that is easy for young readers to proclaim and understand.

Our opening prayers are from the supplemental liturgical materials in *Enriching Our Worship 1*.

Our choir will lead us in songs that are simple to sing but full of meaning. When the words aren't written in the leaflet, we use the Blue Hymnal; the thin green Wonder, Love and Praise Book (WLP), or the thin blue With One Voice (WOV) hymnal.

**And you can even color the front page of the leaflet. Crayons are available in the basket in the narthex. All ages welcome.**

Infants, toddlers and their families can hang out in **our soft space on the right side of the worship space**, which welcomes soft toys, soft activities and soft voices. Wiggles are also welcome.

Overall, this is a great opportunity to ask yourself, how can I come forth to serve Jesus in new ways this year?

## Gathering In Joy

Prelude: Prelude on 'Beach Spring- arr. Marianne Kim

Opening Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982*, #398 I Will Sing the Almighty Power of God

### The Opening Acclamation

EOW 1

Presider: Blessed be our God

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

*The Presider says to the people*

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

Life-giving God, you know that we need your help and the help of other people to keep our bodies and our souls focused on you. Please protect us from anything that can harm us physically, emotionally or spiritually, so that our relationship with you and one another can be healthy and strong, through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Listening for God's Word

### The First Reading- *Proper 17*

#### A Reading from the Book of Exodus [3:1-15]

Moses had run away from Egypt out in to the desert. He was living a quiet life there. He'd gotten married and had a job tending the sheep that belonged to his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. One day he took them way out past the wilderness where they could find something to eat. They settled down by Horeb, which was called the mountain of God. The sheep were happily munching away when Moses noticed that a bush was on fire. It seemed kind of strange to him, and he had this feeling that he should go see what had caused the fire. He looked at the bush. There was flame but no smoke. And it kept burning, but not burning up. "What is up with that?" Moses said to himself. It was an angel, a messenger trying to tell him something from God! It sure grabbed his attention.

Then Moses heard someone call him by name. Out there, in the middle of the desert! It was God himself talking to him, "Moses, Moses!" All Moses could say was, "I'm here."

Then God said, "Don't get any closer than you already are. And you should really take your shoes off, because this place where you are standing is holy ground. I'll bet you are wondering who I am, Moses. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he hid his face in his arms and wrapped his sleeve around his head, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then God said, "I have seen how my people who are slaves in Egypt are hurting. They cry themselves to sleep at night because their masters are mean to them and beat them, and give them no rest. Their cries make my heart hurt. I have a plan to get them out of Egypt and to show them their own place to live, a good place that is full of good things. I know what awful things are going on in Egypt. You are part of my plan. You are going to go to Pharaoh and march the people out of Egypt right under the nose of Pharaoh." But Moses said to God, "Me? Are you kidding? You want to send me? Why would you think I could do this?"

"Don't worry, Moses," said God. "I will be with you the whole time. And when you and all the people get out of Egypt, then you can bring them here to this mountain and worship me."

But Moses said to God, "I'm not very popular with the Hebrew people or Pharaoh right now. What if I go to the Hebrews and say to them, 'The God whom your fathers knew has sent me to you to help you out of Egypt. Let's go. 'What if they say, 'What God? What's his name? 'What am I going to say then?"

"Tell them this, Moses," God says. "I AM Who I AM. That's all you have to say. 'I AM has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "And tell them, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you This is my name forever. Go tell them that."

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

### **Psalm 63:1-8**

**The response is O God, you are my God. And I am ready to find you.**

O God, you are my God. And I am eager to find you.

I'm thirsty for you, just as if I was in the middle of the desert without water.

I have had a glimpse of your power and glory.

Your kindness to me is better than life itself. And I will tell everyone how wonderful you are.

I will raise my hands above my head and shout your praises.

**O God, you are my God. And I am eager to find you.**

My soul is happy deep down like I've had a very good meal, and my lips are happy to talk about you.

I think about you before I go to sleep at night, and at those times when I wake up.

**O God, you are my God. And I am anxious to find you.**

You have been my helper all along. And I can rest under the shadow of your wings.

My soul clings to you and your right hand won't ever let me go.

**O God, you are my God. And I am ready to find you.**

**The Second Reading- *Corinthians 10:1-13***

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [10:1-13]**

You know, our ancestors came through the wilderness on their journey, through the cloud, through the sea, and ate and drank together until they made it to their new land. But not all of them made it. Some of them even started worshipping other gods, even though God himself had saved them. We must not follow their example and turn the wrong direction. We must not put God to the test by using other people or whining without end. Life is hard for everyone. And if you think you're standing, be careful you don't fall like others have. God is faithful. And even if you're being tested yourself, God will help you endure whatever it is you're going through.

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

**Gospel Hymn: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, #228 When Israel Was in Egypt's Land**

**The Gospel- *Luke 13:1-9***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Response: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus heard about some people who had been murdered. He asked his disciples if these people were bad people because of what happened to them. Then he answered his own question: "No, they weren't, but you'd best change your ways so you won't end up like them. And then there were people who died because a tower of bricks fell on them. Did that happen because they were sinful?" Jesus asked. "No. It doesn't work like that. But pay attention and turn your lives around for the good anyway.

Then he told them this story: “A man had a fig tree that didn't produce any figs for three years in a row. He told the gardener to cut the tree down. 'Why should I waste the soil on this tree anyway?' The gardener said, 'I think we should give it another chance. Let's see if it will grow us some figs next year. If not, then go ahead and cut it down?’

“You've got a chance to turn your ways around,” says Jesus. “Take that chance and do something productive with your lives.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Ballenger

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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 , Form I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

*The Presider concludes with this prayer:*

Loving God, we offer you our prayers, some in words, others written in our hearts.  
Break open our hearts, hear our prayers and continue to give us your light, Christ Jesus,  
this day and forever. **Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

EOW 1

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,  
We confess that we have sinned against you,  
Opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied the goodness in each other,  
In ourselves and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
The evil we have done,  
And the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore and strengthen us  
Through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
That we may abide in your love  
And serve only your will. **Amen.**

Presider: 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

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## Celebrating Holy Communion

*Please remember that intinction, dipping bread into wine, is offered on the left side of the circle as you face the altar, and sipping from the common cup is offered on the right side.*

Offertory Anthem: In Christ Alone - K. Getty and S. Townsend Daniel Kelley, Baritone

Presentation Hymn: *Wonder, Love and Praise, #797 It's Me O Lord*

*Children are invited to join Rev. Barb at the altar at this time.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord is here.

People: **God's Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.

All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit, we can all be your people.

And so with thanks we praise you singing:

**Sanctus: *Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #255 Holy, Holy, Holy***

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

**Presider and People**  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

**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.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: *Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #270* Lamb of God

*The Presider continues*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### The Communion of the People

Communion Music: Aus Tiefer Not - Robert Speed

### The Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

*Presider and people together*

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.

## Sending Out

### The Blessing

### Litany of Welcome

*Priest* Dear people of God, I invite your prayers for the saving presence of Jesus in this world,

*Assembly* **Christ is risen!**

*Priest* In this Church,

*Assembly* **Christ is risen!**

*Priest* In this community,

*Assembly* **Christ is risen!**

*Priest* In the hearts of all faithful people,

*Assembly* **Christ is risen!**

*Priest* We pray especially today in thanksgiving as we welcome Sarah Mooers, Kelly Sacco, Cindy Blickley, and The Burke Family.

*Priest* Do you desire to join St. Peter's Church?

*New Members* **We do.**

*Assembly* **We welcome you with open hearts.**

*Priest* We welcome you and pledge to be a community for you.

*Assembly* **We offer you our gifts, our care and concern, our hope and our faith, our brokenness and frailty.**

*Priest* We welcome you, trusting in Christ because we know our imperfections all too well.

*Assembly* **We will rejoice together, mourn together, learn together, grow together, take risks together, make mistakes together and forgive one another.**

*Priest* We welcome the gifts and needs that you bring, and rejoice that you make us stronger and more complete in Christ.

*Assembly* **Thanks be to God!**

*Priest* We welcome you knowing that you will change who we are.

*Assembly* **Thanks be to God.**

*Priest* May God bless our new life together, and lead us in new pathways, in the hallowed name of God, we pray.

*Assembly* AMEN.

### Eucharistic Visitor Commissioning (Occasional)

Presider: In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's we send you forth bearing the gift of Holy Communion to...

**All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread and one cup.**

*When your birthday or anniversary is announced, please stand in your place and remain standing as we pray.*

### Birthdays:

*Thomas Ivory 03/27*

*Nancy Ironside 03/28*

*Bryan Pneuma 03/28*

*Betty Hilary 03/29*

### Anniversaries:

*None this month.*

### Birthday & Anniversary Prayer

BCP 830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Announcements

- Souper Sunday: Soup will be available for purchase following morning worship.
- If you would like to have your photo taken for the photo board, please gather in the center of the church near the baptismal font after service. We encourage newly welcomed and new vestry members to take pictures.
- Next Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m., we invite you to the Lenten Taizé Service, for quiet prayer as we approach Holy Week.
- Explore all our Lenten programming on page 15 of your leaflet.

Closing Hymn: *Wonder, Love and Praise, #756 Lead Me, Guide Me*

## The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart - Arr. Marianne Kim

### Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Deacon: *The Rev. Bob Smith*

Acolytes: *Eamon Ivory, Sophia Kelley, Harper Moore*

Lectors: *Lana Fabijonas, Brodie Memba- Ibañez*

Intercessor: *The Rev. Bob Smith*

Counter: *Bill Hower*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Jenna Linke, Debbie Panebianco*

Ushers: *Peter Gottemoller, Audrey Kipphut, David Kipphut, Linda Toia*

Vestry Steward: *Matt Torpey*

Altar Guild: *Wendy Hartung*

Fellowship: *Kitchen Coordinators*

Bell Ringer: *Bill Bacon*

Director of Music: *Carol Cei*

Tech Team: *PJ Linke, Mike Levin, James Moore*

Welcomer: *Rosalinda Ibañez-Memba*

Sunday Coordinator: *Bob Hartung*

### Vestry

Beth Carlin: [Elizabeth.mcdonald90@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.mcdonald90@gmail.com)

Debbie DeKalb: [sojourner\\_44@yahoo.com](mailto:sojourner_44@yahoo.com)

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**Weekly Giving Totals (Week of 3.16.25)**

*This amount includes online donations. The pledge amount does not include donations made to the capital improvement fund.*

<b>Pledge Amount</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Plate Offering</b>	<b>\$41</b>

## *A Holy Lent*

Scan the QR code to Explore 2025 Lenten Programming.

### **Montgomery Deanery Lenten Series: Prayer Practices and Spirituality From March 10-April 7**

Join us on Monday evenings during Lent for "Prayer Practices and Spirituality," a special series exploring different ways to deepen your prayer life. Each evening begins with a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:30 PM, followed by an interactive session from 7:00–8:00 PM at All Hallows, 262 Bent Road, Wyncote. Each week, a different leader will guide us through a unique prayer practice. Come for one evening or join us for the whole series! All are welcome. No registration is required.

### **Lenten Taizé Service: March 26**

This beautiful candlelight service of Taizé chant and prayer invites all to enter the simple rhythms of the Lenten season on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m.



**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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