

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am | December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Peter's! From the moment you walk through these doors, you are part of our 136-year story. Many like you have come here before. Some seeking solace. Some seeking community. Some who are young. Some who are old. Some with deep faith. Some with deep doubt. Some who are here for a short time. Some who are here for their whole lives. Together, we are the saints of St. Peter's, and we share the story of this place.

In the Episcopal tradition, our worship is guided by The Book of Common Prayer, which can be found in the pews, along with the Hymnal 1982, but everything for today's service can also be found in this leaflet.

Restrooms are available in Bender Hall, through the north doors and down the ramp. There you will find individual restrooms on the left and men's and women's restrooms with changing tables through the second door and to your far right.

This service is live streamed on YouTube. Please be aware you may be seen or heard by those worshiping with us online.



St. Peter's is equipped with a hearing loop for those using hearing aids.

If you would like to learn more about St. Peter's or to have a prayerful conversation, please don't hesitate to reach out! You can find my contact information on the back of this leaflet. And again, welcome!

The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

The congregation, both children and adults, is invited to worship through art, if desired, by drawing a picture of one of the Scripture readings for the day. At the offertory the art will be brought forth to adorn the altar for Communion. Clipboards and coloring utensils may be found at each entrance.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3 (BCP 76)*

As we draw closer to the Nativity of Christ our Lord, today we light four candles of the Advent Wreath. Almighty God, prepare us for the Advent of your son.

Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (H1982 #66)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

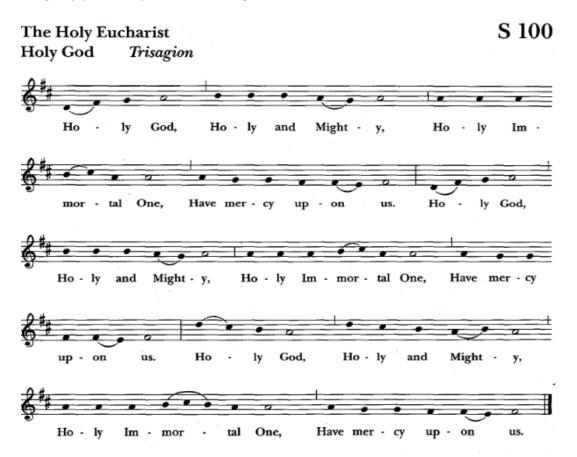
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Word of God

Celebrant ★ Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant 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.**



Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 (*Please be seated*)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

PeopleThanks be to God.

The Psalter: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 (People respond singing bold text)

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned up<u>on</u> the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them *bowls* of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies *laugh* us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord. PeopleThanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (H1982 #59)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

so when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, may he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while unending ages run.

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 (Please stand)

Gospeller The

→ Holy Gospel of our

→ Lord Jesus

→ Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Homily: The Rev. Denise Healy (be seated)

A moment of quiet reflection will follow the sermon.

The Nicene Creed (standing)

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 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (Written by the Daughters of the King)

Deacon's invitation to prayer

Almighty God, help us to pray so faithfully that we may draw near to you and learn your will.

Silence

Prayer Leader

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for him.

As we await the day of your coming: May the life of Christ be revealed in us.

Gracious God, we pray for the Church and the world, especially Presiding bishop Sean, our bishop, Doug, our clergy and those in our diocesan cycle of prayer: Retired clergy of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Charities of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Schools in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and the seminarians of the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

As we await the day of your coming: May we all be one.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; As we await the day of your coming: **May we honor one another and serve the common good.**

We pray for all those who are suffering and for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially those on our parish prayer list (found herein) and those we now name. As we await the day of your coming: **May they know your presence and love.**

We remember those who have \maltese departed this life and for those who mourn, especially those we name, (silently or aloud). As we await the day of your coming: **Hear our Prayer.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of our lives:

As we await the day of your coming: Turn our gratitude into generosity.

We pray especially for St. Peter's parish family. You have planted many seeds of faith, hope and love in our hearts. May we learn this Advent to nurture them patiently and courageously. As we await the day of your coming: Strengthen us to love others as you love us.

God of hope, when Christ your Son appears may he not find us asleep or idle, but active in his service. Help us to be hands to the helpless, provide food for the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. As we await the day of your coming: Give us the courage to be Christ for others.

In all we do and say this Advent, may we follow your example of gentleness and humility. As we await the day of your coming: Christ has no body now on earth, but ours.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. The congregation may kneel.

ΑII

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your 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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, A 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 (Please stand)

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you. People And also with you.

Prayer for birthdays, anniversaries, and milestones

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory



The congregation is invited to offer gifts to God through the mission of St. Peter's. Our ushers will pass an offering basin for your gifts, or you may give online using the QR code to your left or on our website. Thank you for your ministry of giving.

Offertory Sentence: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (H1982 #265)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

At the doxology, the congregation is invited to come forward with their art to adorn the altar as an offering of their creativity and prayer.

Doxology (please stand)

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 Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2 (Enriching Our Worship - standing)

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Celebrant and People (Tune: Land of Rest)
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. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make \maltese us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Peter and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. \blacksquare

Amen



Setting: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943)

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

Celebrant and 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. 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

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover (H1982 S-154)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Celebrant ★ The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are invited to receive communion this morning, an ancient practice intended for all baptized Christians, no matter your tradition. You may receive just the bread (which is full participation in the sacrament), or both the bread and the wine by sipping directly from the chalice. You may also receive by intinction, in which case the minister will dip the bread in the chalice for you. You may receive the bread in your hand or on your tongue.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you would prefer not to receive communion, you may also come forward and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

Communion Hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night (H1982 #60)

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe, you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day; defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

Prayer after Communion

The people stand or kneel, as able.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Priest blesses the people

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the \maltese blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Invitation to Mission Please be seated

Some brief announcements for the mission of the church are offered.

Our Parish Mission (*Please stand*)

We, at St. Peter's, strive to be a welcoming Christian community of all ages that embodies God's word and sacraments, invites spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world with God's Love.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (H1982 #56)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

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Ministers Serving Today:

Celebrant: The Rev. Derek Larson Deacon: The Rev. Denise Healy

Organist: Helen Jones St. Peter's Choir

Lectors: Patty Linder, Sally Fuhrman Altar Guild

Crucifer: Christy Lyle Acolytes: Rose Price, Presley Stevens Eucharistic Ministers: Christy Wilson Ushers: Diana Weeks, Bruce Nichols

Advent Wreath Readers: LauraAnn Larson and boys

Readings for next Sunday, December 28:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

By the Numbers:

Last Sunday's Attendance (including 12 online): 137

Average Sunday Attendance in 2025: 113

Weekly Income and Expenses Budgeted: \$7,000 (\$1,000 a day). Finances Week of December 14, 2025: Income: \$11,118.04.

2025 Budgeted Revenue: \$368,296.00 2025 Revenue to Date: \$337,124.67

Mind the Gap: \$31,171.33 needed to meet 2025 budget

2026 Pledge Goal: \$312,900.00 (312 days of ministry) 2026 Pledges to Date: \$276,126.34 (276 days of ministry)

Mind the Gap: \$35,873.66 (35 days of ministry) needed to meet goal.

Submit your pledge today by scanning the QR code!



Are you on our email list? More announcements can be found in our weekly "This Week at St. Peter's" email. Remember that you can also check https://www.stpetersplantcity.com/calendar for up-to-date calendar listings.

Take note:

- Today at 9:15am Youth and Children's Sunday School with classes for toddlers, elementary schoolers, and teenagers!
- Join our Pathfinders Adult Sunday School series on the season of Advent which includes a short teaching and small group discussions.
- Be sure to see TW@SP for our many Outreach opportunities.
- Today is the deadline for Christmas flower donations.
- We are currently receiving nominations for the vestry and delegates for 2026. For more information, see Fr. Derek or a vestry member.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve at 4:30 – Carol Sing and Special Music

Christmas Eve at 5:00 – Festive Eucharist and Pageant:

Children's Christmas pageant,

Holy Communion, candlelight singing of Silent Night

Christmas Eve at 10:00pm – Carol Sing and Special Music

Christmas Eve at 10:30pm – Solemn Midnight Mass.

Traditional Midnight Mass

with carols, special music, scripture readings homily, holy communion and candlelight singing of Silent Night. This service includes incense.

Christmas Day at 10:30am – A spoken mass with no music will be offered on Christmas morning.

Sunday December 28 at 10:30am – "It's Still Christmas" Family Mass.

There will be NO 8:00 mass on this day.

Please Pray For:

- Amanda, Bernie, Bill, Bill, Billie, Bernice, Betty, Bruce, Bud, Carol, Carolyn, Casey, Charley, Chris, Dale, Darlene, Daryll, David, David, David, Don, Dorothy, Drex, Ellie, Evelyn, Evon, Fred, Glen, Gregg, Hugh, Jackie, James, Jane, Janet, Janice, Janice, Jason, Jeff, Jenna, Jim, Jim, JoAnne, John, John & Jane, Leslie & family, Linda, Luke, Marilyn, Mary, Mary, Mary Katherine, Nancy, Nora, Priscilla & Robert, Richard, Sally, Sarah, Shirley, Stephanie, Su, Suzanne, Teri, Thomas, Tim, Tracey, Vernette, Our Neighbors at Laundry Love, Friends in the Park
- The victims of violence and injustice in our own country and around the world.
- People of the Middle East
- Those celebrating birthdays: Eda Snyder 12/25, Ethan Black 12/26, Ally Black 12/26, Meri Kenney 12/26, Amelia Jelsovsky 12/26, Erick Corryn 12/27.
- Those celebrating anniversaries: Cindy & Gregg Gutowski 12/27.
- Those expecting a child and their families: Breanna Clark (2/26), Kelly Gutowski (2/26), Grace Everett (3/26), LauraAnn Larson (5/26), Brittany Eukovich Wilhelm (5/26).
- St. Peter's Vestry: Christy, Cindy, Eda, Mark, Patti, Patty, Ron, Sandy
- Our Shared Parish: St. Peter's 2026 Pledge Campaign.
- Members of our community serving in the armed forces:
 Aden, Andrew, Austin, Brendan, Christopher, Dayna, Forrest, Kyle, Logan,
 Matt, Matthew, Nick, Paul, Robert, Scott, Timothy, Trace, Yasmine

Parish Administration:

Rector: The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

Deacon: The Rev. Denise Healy Parish Administrator: Sarah Dean

Director of Music Ministries: Helen Jones

Treasurer: Trey Stevens Sexton: Tony Wilson

Vestry: Sandy Black, Patti Booher (Senior Warden), Mark Conner,

Ron Everett (Junior Warden), Cindy Gutowski, Patty Linder (Clerk), Christy Lyle, Eda Snyder



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Fr. Derek Larson email: rector@stpetersplantcity.com

Deacon Denise Healy email: revdzz@gmail.com

Patti Booher/Senior Warden email: stpeterseniorwarden@gmail.com

www.stpetersplantcity.com



Did you find our church mice?

John Mousely is the one preaching. Thomas Cracker is the one praying. Find them both and tell Fr. Derek where they are for a cute sticker.