



ST. PETER'S
EST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1889

Family Mass

10:30 am | July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

It is Family Sunday! All families are welcome—large and small, families of birth and of choice. At St. Peter's, part of our mission is to “celebrate children and youth”, and Family Sunday is one way we do that. Today and every last Sunday of the month, children play an even greater role in our worship and our liturgy is adapted for younger participants

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.



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

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

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.

We Explore God's Word

All are invited to stand as the service begins

*As we gather to pray, the
first thing we do is praise
God for goodness and love.*

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation (H1982 #636)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

*We gather in
the name of the
triune (three-in-
one) God with
a greeting,
saying hello to
God and one
another*

All

See pew card for music

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*In this prayer called the
“collect,” the priest “collects”
or “gathers” the themes of the
lesson, the season, and the
congregation.*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

*Now we listen to the story
and lessons of God and
God’s people in Scripture.*

In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so his Son would be the first of many children. God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.

What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are

acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? It is exactly as the Scriptures say, "For you we face death all day long. We are like sheep on their way to be butchered."

In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: Jesus Creed

D G A D
 Je-sus said, "The first com mand-ment is this:___ Hear, O Is-ra-el: The

5 G A A^(sus4) A⁷ G D
 Lord our God is the on - ly Lord. Love the Lord your God___ with all___ your heart,

10 A Bm A G
 ___ with all___ your. soul,___ with all___ your. mind,___ and with all your strength.

13 D A G D A
 ___ The sec-ond is this:___ Love your neigh bor. as___ your self. There is___ no___

18 Bm A G A D
 oth-er com mand ment great - er___ than. these.___ A - men.___

The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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

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

Jesus told them another story:

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.

Jesus also said:

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a woman mixes a little yeast into three big batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds a treasure hidden in a field and buries it again. Such a person is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls. After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a net is thrown into a lake and catches all kinds of fish. When the net is full, it is dragged to the shore, and the fishermen sit down to separate the fish. They keep the good ones, but throw the bad ones away. That's how it will be at the end of time. Angels will come and separate the evil people from the ones who have done right. Then those evil people will be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they will cry and grit their teeth in pain.

Jesus asked his disciples if they understood all these things. They said, "Yes, we do."

So he told them, "Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY - The Rev. Derek Larson *(seated)*

A moment of quiet reflection will follow the homily.

In the homily, the priest, deacon, or other minister helps us understand the stories and teachings of Scripture.

The Nicene Creed *(standing)*

The creed is a sacred teaching passed down to us for hundreds of years to remind us of the story of the triune God.

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

(standing or kneeling, as able)

Now we pray to ask God to support our common life. We name all the things that are important to us, and especially those people in our families and communities that are in need.

Deacon Let us join together in prayer, out loud or quietly.

Leader First, we pray for our church family and all those who help us remember the love of Jesus. Who helps you remember the love of Jesus?

[Pause – say out loud or think quietly of those people, places, and things that show you God’s love.]

Leader We say, “Help us follow you, God.”

People **Help us follow you, God.**

Leader Second, we pray for all those in our communities who lead us and keep us safe. Who keeps you safe?

[Pause – say out loud or think quietly of those who keep you safe.]

Leader We say, “Give them wisdom, God.”

People **Give them wisdom, God.**

Leader Third, we pray for people or situations that make us feel worried, afraid, mad, or sad. What hurts your heart?

[Pause – say out loud or think quietly of things that make you worried, afraid, mad, or sad. Hold them up to God.]

Leader We say, “Help us, God.”

People **Help us, God.**

Leader Fourth, we pray for those we know who are sick or hurt, or who have ✠ died, and those on our parish prayer list. Who are you thinking of?

[Pause – say out loud or think quietly of the names of people—or animals—who are sick or hurt or who have died.]

Leader We say, “Give them strength, God.”

People **Give them strength, God.**

Leader Fifth, we say “thank you” to God for all the good things that happen in our lives. What are you thankful for today?

[Pause – say out loud or think quietly of things for which you want to say “thank you” to God]

Leader We say, “Thank you, God.”

People **Thank you, God.**

Celebrant God, hear and answer our prayers with your wisdom and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Before we share communion, we greet one another with the sign of peace. You can shake hands, give high-fives, wave, hug, kiss, or simply say hello.

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.

Now we offer to God our love and service through art, money, bread, and wine. We place them on the altar as a gift to God.

Offertory Sentence:

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

Offertory Hymn:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

(Hymn 136 from Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
2. Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

1. — I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
2. — Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
3. — The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

1. — I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
2. — Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
3. — The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

— No turn - ing back, (no turn - ing back,) no turn - ing back!

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) all singing together*

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.

We Gather at God's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Common Prayer, Additional Eucharistic Prayer One

At God's table, which is also called an altar, we pray a prayer of thanksgiving and remember all that God has done for us.

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 Holy, holy, *People* **Holy!**

Celebrant It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe and filled your world with life.

Celebrant Holy, holy, *People* **Holy!**

Celebrant You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child. He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.

Celebrant Holy, holy, *People* **Holy!**

Celebrant You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

All singing together (WLP, H858 Hymn 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 Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. ✠

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me. ✠

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Celebrant Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and blood. Pour your Spirit on us ✠ that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This part is called the "Epiciclesis," where we ask God to send the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine and upon us, God's people.

Celebrant And now, in the words that Jesus taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

G C D G C D

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low-ed be thy Name, —
Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for give us our tres-pass - es,

9 Em D/F# G Am⁷ G D/F# 1. 3

thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav'n.
as we for- give — those — who tres pass a - gainst — us.

19 2. Am⁷ Bm⁷ C D

And lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us — from e - vil.

28 D(sus4) D G Gmaj7 G Am⁷

For thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry,

36 Am¹³ Am⁷ C Cmaj7 D D7 G(sus4) G(add2) G

for — ev - er and ev - er. A - men. —

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a - way the sins of the
world, have mer - cy up - on — us. us. O
Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sins
of the world, grant us thy peace.

Celebrant This is God's table. Jesus is the host. We are the guests.

✠ Share in God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

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: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (H1982 #711)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you! Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!

A FINAL PRAYER AND A BLESSING

Holy God, we thank you for being present here in the Communion we shared, and for this taste of your feast. We pray that you will be in our minds and hearts as we leave this place, showing us the best way to go and giving us the strength and courage to follow it. Amen.

Invitation to Mission

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.

The Priest blesses the people

The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: 'Tis the Gift to be Simple (H1982 #554)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.
When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

THE DISMISSAL – SENDING US INTO THE WORLD

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Altar Guild

Crucifer: Karen Price

Readers: Rose Price, Jory Price

Eucharistic Ministers: Mike Booher

Ushers: Frank Cummings, Fred Johnson

By the Numbers:

Attendance Last Week: 122 (including 19 online)

Average Sunday Attendance: 118

Readings for next Sunday, August 2:

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145: 8-9, 15-22, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

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:

- Pathfinders: Join our adult Sunday School class each Sunday at 9:15am.
- Bible Study with the Rector Wednesday at 10:30 in the Guild Room.
- School Supplies Donation Drive- We are currently collecting school supplies and financial donations for local students in need.
- Blessing of the Backpacks- Join us at mass on Sunday, August 9, 2026 with your backpack or briefcase as we offer a blessing for students, teachers, and educators for the beginning of a new school year!
- Program Year Kick Off- Our program year kicks off on Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 9:15am for an intergenerational celebration! Then join us each week for Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:15am: Little Lambs (0-K), Godly Play (1st - 5th Grades), Table Flippers (6th-12th Grades), and Pathfinders (Adults). Every last Sunday of the month all ages gather for Family Sunday School, and intergenerational time for games, actives, and growing closer to God and one another.
- Register for our inaugural St. Peter’s Topgolf Fundraiser on September 12, 2025 from 2:00pm-5:00pm.
- Be sure to see the TW@SP weekly email for our many Outreach opportunities.

Please Pray For:

- Alyssa, Amanda, Amber, Anthony, Ashley, Bernice, Bernie, Beth & Tim, Betty, Bill, Bruce, Bud, Carol, Carolyn, Chad, Charley, Chris, Daryll, David, Don, Dorothy, Drex, Eddie, Ellie, Evelyn, Evon & Jason, Frank, Fred, Glenn, Glenn, Gregg, Jack, Erika & Nate; Jackie, James, Janet, Janice, Jeff, Jenna, John, John & Jane, Jonathan & Leslie, June & Don, Katherine, Linda, Luke, Marilyn & Jim, Mary, Mary, Mary, Mary Lee, Nora, Odin and the Sepe Family, Paulette, Priscilla & Robert, Richard, Rosemary, Sally, Sandra, Sarah, Shirley, Stephanie, Steve & Jennifer, Su, Susan, Susan, Terry, Thomas, Tim, Tim, Tracey
- Our Neighbors at Laundry Love and 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: Justin Corryn 07/26, Scott Collins 07/31, Emerson Gaede 08/01
- Those celebrating anniversaries: Charles Kellner and Michael Dotson 07/30
- Those expecting a child and their families: MaryMargaret Nolin (09/26), Isis Jones (12/26), Miranda Wilson (01/27)
- St. Peter's Vestry: Brian, Chris, Christy, Diana, Eda, Lindsay, Mark, Ron, Sandy
- Members of our community serving in the armed forces: Aden, Andrew, Austin, Brantley, Brendan, Conor, Forrest, Matt, Matthew, Sarah, Trace

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, Mark Conner, Ron Everett (Junior Warden),
Lindsay Hunt, Diana Johnson, Christy Lyle (Senior Warden),
Brian Reid, Eda Snyder, Chris Thomas**



St. Peter's Episcopal Church | 302 N. Carey St Plant City, FL 33563

Weekdays: Morning Prayer at 8:00am and Evening Prayer at 5:15pm

Sundays: Spoken Mass at 8:00am and Choral Mass at 10:30am

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm

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Deacon Denise Healy email: revdzz@gmail.com

Christy Lyle/Senior Warden email: seniorwarden@stpetersplantcity.com
www.stpetersplantcity.com

DID YOU FIND OUR CHURCH MICE?



St. Peter's has three resident mice clergy
for our mouse congregation! Find all
three and after mass tell Fr. Derek where
they are for a cute sticker.