

SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

910 Hudson Road | Greenville, SC | 29615 | 864-268-7280 | www.stpetersgreenville.com

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite II



Welcome to St. Peter's!

Our Mission: One body of transformation
embracing all people through Christ's love.

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us! All baptized Christians (any church) are invited to receive Holy Communion. We offer two options for receiving consecrated wine, the first is to dip the edge of the consecrated wafer you have received into the chalice; the second is to consume your wafer and then take a small sip from the chalice. Please choose the option you prefer. If you would simply prefer a blessing from a priest, indicate by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; indicate your need to the priest.

In general we stand to sing, sit to listen, and kneel or stand to pray (though there are exceptions). Some people choose to bow at the cross as a sign of reverence for the grace it represents. Others make the sign of the cross on themselves as a way of uniting themselves to the words being said. The traditional times for making the sign of the cross are marked in the bulletin with a small cross (†). None of the externals are required and you will notice that some parishioners use them and others do not.

Organ Meditation—

Please listen quietly as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Lighting of the Wreath

We Are Waiting

Advent Candle Lighting Song Music by Carla S. Padgett

The musical score for 'We Are Waiting' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features three parts: Soprano, Bass, and a duo of Soprano (S) and Bass (B). The Soprano part begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4, then a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The Bass part begins with a whole rest followed by a half note F3, then a quarter note G3, and a half note A3. The duo part begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4, then a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics are: 'We are wait-ing for the Son of God; wait - ing, wait - ing; We are wait-ing for the Prince of Peace.' The score includes first and second endings for the duo part.

At the sound of the bell please stand.

The Hymnal 1982 No. 65—Prepare the Way, O Zion

The musical score for 'Prepare the Way, O Zion' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). It features a single melodic line. The lyrics are: '1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near! 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove. 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace. Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.' The score includes first and second endings for the melodic line.



OPENING ACCLAMATION

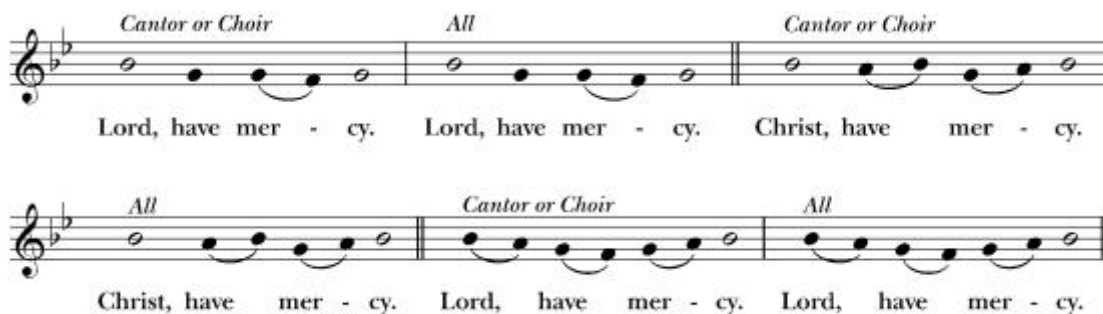
Presider †Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *Sung Responsorially*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.**
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!**
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name" and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Hymnal 1982 No. 76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains five verses of lyrics. The second system contains five verses of lyrics. The third system contains five verses of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Chuck Messer

(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)

THE NICENE 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—FORM VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For *Sean* our Presiding Bishop, and *Daniel* our Bishop; *Chuck* and *Sarah* our Clergy and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Presider says

†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.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY—*The People that Walk in Darkness*

G.F. Handel

Peter Carver, bass

If you'd like to make your offering online, please use this QR code:



DOXOLOGY—*The Hymnal 1982 No. 380 v. 3*

As the Offering is presented, the People stand and sing,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer C

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

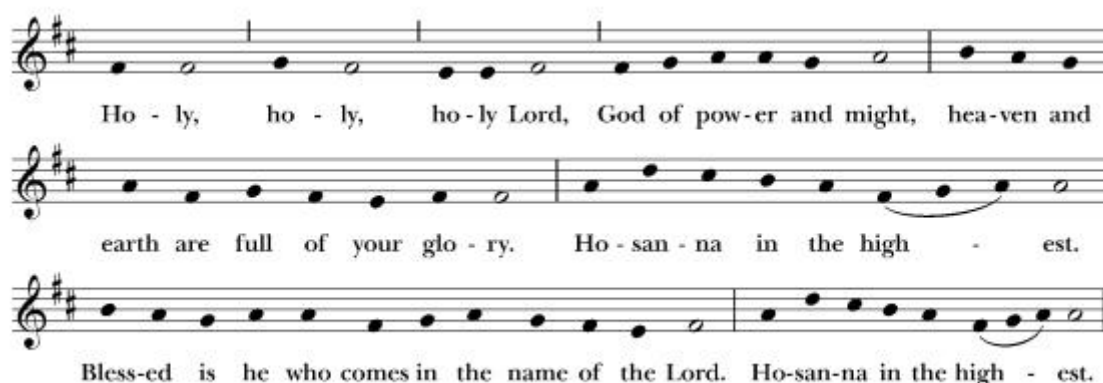
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Presider and People



The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

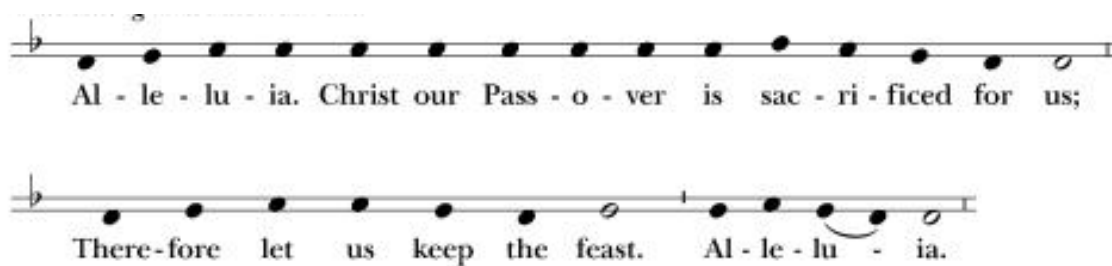
Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 FRACTION



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Presider

The gifts of God, For the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD

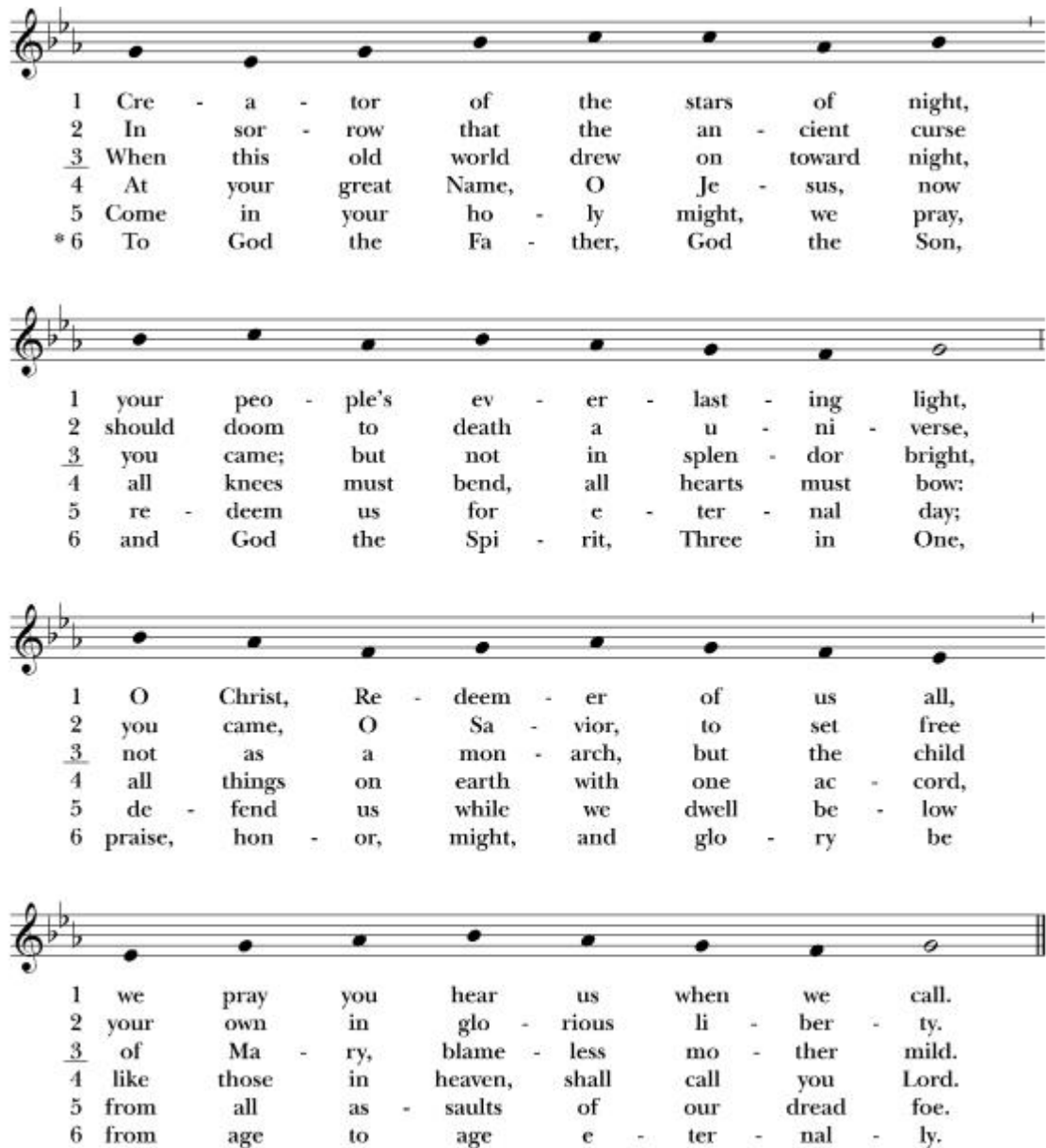
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:

have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *The Hymnal 1982 No 60—Creator of the Stars of Night*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 * 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

The People kneel or stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray:

Presider and People

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.**

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

THE DISMISSAL

Presider

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Those Who Serve Today

Ushers:	John Wagoner, Courtney Goforth, Kyle Davis, Haddie Davis & Kale Davis
Lector:	Ken Shabel & Mary Wright
Chalice Bearer	Gina Pelino & Glenn Allison
Crucifer/Server:	Nora Durham & Tucker Allison
Torchbearers:	Shelby Allison & Henry Purvis
VPOD:	Nick Morse
Organist:	Carla Padgett
Celebrant:	The Rev. Sarah Carver
Preacher:	The Rev. Chuck Messer
Opener:	Kathy Lundy
Closer:	David Rhodes
Altar Guild:	Kathy Lundy, Barbara Ellis & Adriana Brooks
Technology Guild:	Brad Brooks & Matthew Purvis

Vestry: Tony Scalzitti—Sr. Warden, Tom Priddy—Jr. Warden,
 Katie Kluttz, Alison Hitner, Martin Remick and Tony Scalzitti – '25 Debbie Cannada, Todd LaFrance, Shannon
 Sports, Gayle McKee – '26 Nick Morse, Tom Priddy, Tim Wilkerson, Mary Wright – '27
 Harrison Hitner—Youth Rep Michael Coward—Treasurer, Holly Kraus—Clerk

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Prayer List of St. Peter's Parishioners

The clergy will verbally offer the names on the acute list weekly, and the names on our chronic list bi-weekly in hopes of keeping those for whom we pray in the awareness of our community members who may be able and willing to reach out with other expressions of love and care.

Parishioners preparing for/recovering from hospitalization/surgery or receiving regular therapy or hospice care.		Parishioners who are homebound, in skilled care, or experiencing chronic pain or limiting conditions.	
Barbara Bailey	Sherry Hunt	Meta Armstrong	Katherine Lumpkin-Leech
Teresa Burns	Bev Myatt	Andrea Bryant	Gayle Meacham
Connie Clark	Heather Saccamano	Debbie Cannada	George Paszkiewicz
Terry Davidson	Victor Sherlock	Don Ellis	Ginny Tate
Jody Fails	Finn Smith	Wain Fallow	Shirley Twiss
Franca George	Pam Smith	Josie Harper	
Jim Huber	Olga Torres		

Please pray for the repose of the soul of those who have died, especially:

Anne Gobbett—wife of Clive Gobbett
 Ken Wagner—father of Kara Scalzitti