



# **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**22 N. Union St., Smyrna, Delaware**

[www.stpeters-smyrna.church](http://www.stpeters-smyrna.church)

*A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing*

**Bulletin for Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Rite II- Prayer A- 9:00 am**



**Thank you for joining us for Worship!**

Liturgy and Music through rite planning License SB157752, expires 4/30/2026

Podcasting and Music through One License A-736373, expires 8/26/2026

Images through Church Online Subscription, Account # 74074931

**Church Office (302) 653-9691 – Hours: Mon & Fri Closed, Tues - Thurs - 9:00AM – 1:00PM**

**Email: Office: [stpeters.smyrna@verizon.net](mailto:stpeters.smyrna@verizon.net) Rector: [smyrnarector@gmail.com](mailto:smyrnarector@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**WORSHIP SERVERS:**

Celebrant: Fr Ed Godden, Supply Clergy

Musician: Ms. Bonnie W. Forgacs, Music Minister

<b>Lay Server</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
Reader	Shirley Biddle
Chalicer	Stan McIntryre
Ushers	Paul Buckley and Kenny Correll

**A special thank you to Father Ed Godden for being our Celebrant today.**

**PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

*Anglican Cycle of Prayer:* The Church of Bangladesh

*Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* St. Peter's Church, Smyrna

*Parish Cycle of Prayer:* Danny & Dorothy Andrew and Patricia Atherley-Liddie

*Birthdays:* Danny Andrew, Linda Slicher, Jim Correll, Catherine Huidekoper, and Tom Reynolds

*Anniversaries:* Tom Campbell & Sue Poteau

**Aumbry Candle**

To the Glory of God and in Honor of St. Peter's Congregation, may we continue grow as one parish family into the coming year.

**Altar Flowers**

Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lawrence & Frances Thornton, Sr.  
By: Larry & Cheryl Thornton

***Search Committee Members:***

Dawn Adams, Vestry Liaison

Terri Anderson, Allison Embert, Allison Gallo, Catherine Huidekoper, Tom Schultz and Linda Slicher, Parish Members.

***Vestry***

***2025 Officers***

Shirley Biddle, Sr. Warden

Wayne Burris, Jr. Warden

Temple Carter, Treasurer

Lisa Embert, Secretary

***Members:***

**2023-2026**

Harold Warnett

Dawn Adams

Wayne Burris

**2024-2027**

Patty Murray

Shirley Biddle

Michael Richards

**2025-2028**

Larry Decker

Ray DePhillis

Dawn Arnold

## SERVICE

**PRELUDE:** *Come, Holy Traveler*, Patricia Lou Harris, Tune: *CANDLER*, Scottish melody

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (St. Thomas) (H 58)  
Sing verses 1,3 and 4

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
2 ~~Every eye shall~~ now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful  
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,  
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,  
claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861).

## THE WORD OF GOD

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

*Celebrant says*

O God, by your Word all things are made holy; pour out your blessings upon this wreath and prepare the hearts of those who use it for the coming of Christ; give us the gift of faith that we may receive him as he comes, through the same Jesus Christ your son our Lord. **Amen.**

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

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.**

### OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE

*The following is said, all standing*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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; <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, \* **and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

<sup>2</sup>That he may rule your people righteously \* **and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**

<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \* **who alone does wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be his glorious Name forever, \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

## **SECOND READING:** Romans 15:4-13

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup>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.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: *There's a voice in the wilderness crying (Ascension)* (H 75)  
**Sing verses 1 and 3**



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —  
 2 Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
 3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like  
 feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!  
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;  
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904).

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>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.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>“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. <sup>12</sup>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.”

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **THE SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

*All stand.*

**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**

*All remain standing.*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and 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

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*                **And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *An Introit For Advent*, Words and Music by Diane Hannibal (ASCAP)

### OFFERTORY PRESENTATION HYMN FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES (OLD 100TH) VERSE 3

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.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The People remain 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS: S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b.1937).

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Comfort, comfort ye my people (Psalm 42)* (H 67)



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



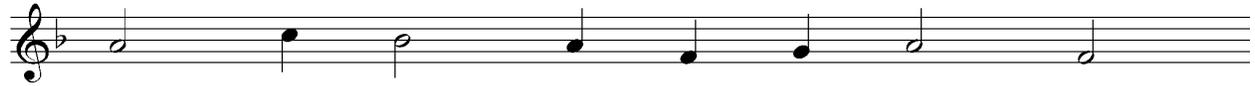
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant 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.**

## **BLESSING**



**RECESSIONAL HYMN: Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden väg för Herran) (H 65)**  
**Sing verses 1 and 3**



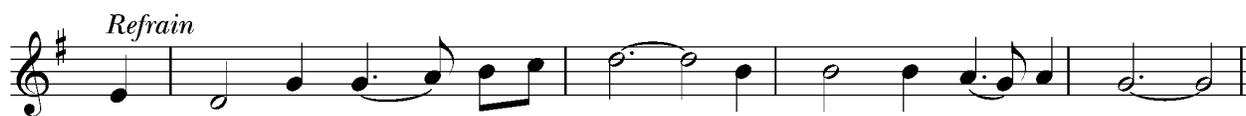
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
~~2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.~~  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



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.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920). Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697.

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE: *La Jornada The Journey*, Venezuelan Folk Carol [WE]**