



# **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, March 8, 2026**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**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, March 8, 2026**

**WORSHIP SERVERS:**

Celebrant: Fr Bruce Lomas, Supply Clergy

Musician: Ms. Bonnie W. Forgacs, Music Minister

<b>Lay Server</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
Reader	Harold Warnett
Chalicer	Larry Thornton
Ushers	Mike & Kim Statham

**A special thank you to Father Bruce Lomas for being our Celebrant today.**

**PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

*Anglican Cycle of Prayer:* The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East

*Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* Province III

*Parish Cycle of Prayer:* Kristal & Janet Daniels and Chalnecia Davies

*Birthdays:* Keith Adams and Mike Richards

**Aumbry Candle**

To the Glory of God and in Memory of our mom, Inez Kent, who passed into eternal life in 1997 and in Honor of our dad, Marshal L Robertson who thrives at 93.

By: Kate Kent, her brothers, nephews, grandkids & great niece

**Altar Flowers**

Given to the Glory of God in Memory of K.C.,  
a wonderful little “wigggle-butt” and friend.

By Melody Richards

**The Aumbry Candle and Altar Flower Sign-up Lists for 2026** are available. *There are still dates available for altar flowers along with the May aumbry candle.* Please check the sign-up lists on the bulletin board next to the kitchen window for additional availability.

***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

### *BEGIN PERIOD OF QUIET REFLECTION.*

**PRELUDE:** *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*, FARLEY CASTLE, Henry Lawes, 1595-1662. Setting by Matthew Machemer

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** My faith looks up to thee (Olivet) (H 691)

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.  
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887). Music: *Olivet*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

## THE WORD OF GOD

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

## DECALOGUE

*The Decalogue is said, the People kneeling.*

Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The 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.**

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.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LESSONS**

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 95**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; \* **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, \* **and a great King above all gods.**

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \* **and the heights of the hills are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, \* **and his hands have molded the dry land.**

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \* **and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

<sup>8</sup>Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.**

<sup>9</sup>They put me to the test, \* **though they had seen my works.**

<sup>10</sup>Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
**“This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.”**

<sup>11</sup>So I swore in my wrath, \* **“They shall not enter into my rest.”**

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in  
our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and  
character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been  
poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we  
were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone  
die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare  
to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for  
us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved  
through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled  
to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we  
be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: Rock of ages, cleft for me (Toplady) (H 685)

Sing verses 1 and 2

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

**GOSPEL:** John 4:5-42

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of

Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

*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.*

## **THE PEACE**

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

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

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *How Beautiful*, Words and Music by Twila Paris. Choral Setting  
by Lloyd Larson

### **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**

*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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### COMMUNION HYMN: Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless (St. Agnes) (H 343)

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
word of grace, in strength of which we  
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

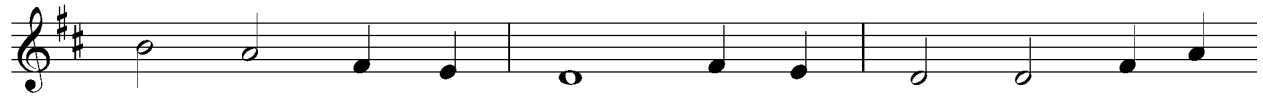
**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

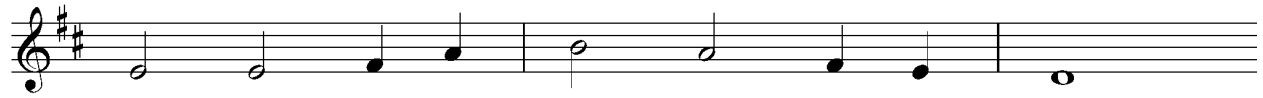
### RECESSIONAL HYMN: Come, thou fount of every blessing (H 686)



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my  
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



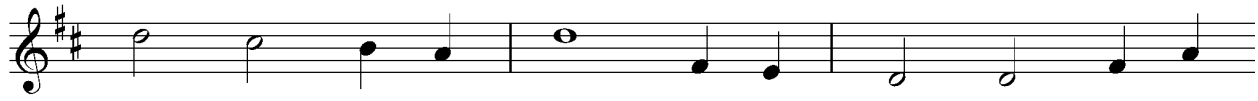
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good  
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering  
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me  
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from  
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Fantasy on "Rock of Ages "*, Jason W. Krug, Tune: *TOPLADY* by Thomas Hastings