



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

22 N. Union St., Smyrna, Delaware

***A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing
A Church Worth Finding***

Bulletin for Sunday, July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rite II- Prayer A- 9:00 am



Thank you for joining us for Worship!

Liturgy and Music through rite planning License SB157752, expires 4/30/2027

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

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www.stpeters-smyrna.church

Sunday, July 26, 2026

WORSHIP SERVERS:

Celebrant: Fr. Bruce Lomas, Supply Clergy

Musician: Ms. Bonnie W. Forgacs, Music Minister

Lay Server	9:00AM
Reader	Larry Thornton
Chalicer	Wayne Burris
Ushers	Paul Buckley and Mary Sanders

A special thank you to Fr. Bruce Lomas for being our celebrant today.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. David's Church, Wilmington

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Herbert & Angie Morris and Scott, Patty, Casey & Brett Murray

Birthdays: Angie Morris-Lewis, Bill Raynor, Becky Correll, Grace Dicuirci,
Mary Sanders and Brett Murray

Anniversaries: Larry & Cheryl Thornton and Alan & Sandy Robinson

Aumbry Candle

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Dave, Dave Jr & Norma Hyer,
and John and Peg Jacobs.
By: Dave & Evy Jacobs

Altar Flowers

Given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Emma Pase.
By: Shirley Biddle

The following dates are still available for Altar Flowers: *Sept 13 & 27; Oct 4 & 18 and Dec 6*

Search Committee Members:

Dawn Adams, Vestry Liaison

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

Vestry

2026 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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite Two

PRELUDE: Prelude on "*New England*", Colin Curtis. Based on a New England folk melody

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *O worship the King, all glorious above (Hanover) (H 388)*

Sing verses 1, 2 and 3

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy bound - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!
2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!

1 pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
2 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
4 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
5 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Words: Robert Grant (1779-1838). Music: *Hanover*, att. William Croft (1678-1727).

THE WORD OF GOD

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.**

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.

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 LESSONS

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

The people sit.

A Reading from the First book of Kings.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have

not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

Remain seated.

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; * **therefore I obey them with all my heart.**

¹³⁰When your word goes forth it gives light; * **it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant; * **I long for your commandments.**

¹³²Turn to me in mercy, * **as you always do to those who love your Name.**

¹³³Steady my footsteps in your word; * **let no iniquity have dominion over me.**

¹³⁴Rescue me from those who oppress me, * **and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your countenance shine upon your servant * **and teach me your statutes.**

¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears, * **because people do not keep your law.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

The people sit.

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

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all

day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *If thou but trust in God to guide thee (Wer nur den lieben Gott)* (H 635)

Unison or harmony

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
 2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
 faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
 sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt., Music: *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, George Neumark (1621-1681)

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

All stand.

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

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

³¹[Another parable Jesus put before the crowds:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ORGAN ANTHEM: *Musette*, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759. Ed. and arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

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.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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: *Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise (Ellers)* (H 345)

1 Sa - vior, a - gain to thy dear Name we raise
 *2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
 3 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life;
 4 thy peace in life, the balm of ev - ery pain;

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
 with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day;
 peace to thy Church from er - ror and from strife;
 thy peace in death, the hope to rise a - gain;

guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 from harm and dan - ger keep thy chil - dren free,
 peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
 then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

that in this house have called up - on thy Name.
 for dark and light are both a - like to thee.
 peace in each heart, thy Spi - rit from a - bove:
 call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Ellers*, Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

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: *Ye holy angels bright (Darwall's 148th)* (H 625)

Sing verses 1, 2 and 4

1 Ye ho - ly an - gels bright, who wait at God's right hand, or
 2 Ye bless - ed souls at rest, who ran this earth - ly race and
~~3 Ye saints, who toil be -~~ low, a - dore your heaven - ly King, and
 4 My soul, bear thou thy part, tri - umph in God a - bove: and

through the realms of light fly at your Lord's com - mand, as - sist our
 now, from sin re - leased, be - hold the Sa - vior's face, God's prais - es
 on - ward as ye go some joy - ful an - them sing; take what he
 with a well - tuned heart sing thou the songs of love! Let all thy

song, for else the theme too high doth seem for mor - tal tongue.
 sound, as in his sight with sweet de - light ye do a - bound.
 gives and praise him still, through good or ill, who ev - er lives!
 days till life shall end, what - e'er he send, be filled with praise.

Words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691); rev. John Hampden Gurney (1802-1862), Music: *Darwall's 148th*, melody and bass John Darwall (1731-1789); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt; desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Trumpet March*, Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1659-1707. Ed. and arr. by S. Drummond Wolff