

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



APRIL 30, 2023

Jesus said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:9-10

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

Fourth Sunday in Easter, Year A

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)

LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

Prelude

Larry Saylor, guitar

Opening Hymn

What a fellowship!

LEVAS 196

Opening Sentences

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence is kept.*)

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 Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Venite To God with gladness sing (sung to Darwall's 148th)

To God with gladness sing, your Rock and Savior bless;

Into his temple bring your songs of thankfulness!

O God of might, to you we sing

Enthroned as King on heaven's height!

God cradles in his hand the heights and depths of earth;

God made the sea and land, God brought the world to birth!

O God most high, we are your sheep;

On us you keep your shepherd's eye!

Your heavenly Father praise, acclaim his only Son,

Your voice in homage raise to him who makes all one!

O Dove of peace, on us descend

That strife may end and joy increase!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who

trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, ***

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, verses 42-47.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle K A Song of Our Adoption

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
for you have blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

**Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,*
that we should be holy and blameless before you.**

**You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,*
according to the good pleasure of your will,**

**To the praise of your glorious grace,*
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.**

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,
the forgiveness of our sins,

According to the riches of your grace*
which you have lavished upon us.

**You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,*
The mystery of your will,**

**According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ,*
as a plan for the fullness of time,**

**To gather together all things in Christ,*
Things in heaven and things on earth.**

A Reading from The First Letter of Peter, Chapter 2, verses 19-25.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle S A Song of Our True Nature (Julian of Norwich)

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling,*
our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power,*
his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need,*

he raises us in spirit and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature;*

God is the true father and mother of natures,

We are all bound to God by nature,*

and we are all bound to God by grace.

And this grace is for all the world,*

because it is our precious mother, Christ.

**For this fair nature was prepared by Christ
for the honor and nobility of all,***

and for the joy and bliss of salvation.

A Reading from The Gospel according to John, Chapter 10, verses 1 through 10.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

Larry Saylor, guitar

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages from Enriching our Worship

Help us, O God our Savior;

Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

Look upon your congregation;

Give to your people the blessing of peace.

Declare your glory among the nations;

And your wonders among all peoples.

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

Never forget the lives of your poor.

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

And your favor to those who are true of heart.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Collect for Fourth Sunday in Easter

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

For Peace

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide the leaders and the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that together they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until your reign of peace comes on this earth, we pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially those on our prayer list. Protect them, guide them, and bring them safely home when their work is done. Knowing that our only protection is with the Good Shepherd, we pray for an end to gun violence in this nation, so that all may dwell in safety rather than in fear. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer of thanksgiving for the beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers; for the songs

of birds and loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and we pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever.

Amen.

For the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it. We pray for this parish family. May we love one another as you have loved us. May we witness on this earth to the gracious and merciful heart and mind of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. **Amen.**

For those on our prayer list

Merciful Lord, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve us: Look with compassion upon the sorrows of those we now name before you and for whom we offer our prayers, especially the Linne von Bergs and all on our prayer list. Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, where we celebrate with you forever. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Closing Hymn I come with joy to meet my Lord

H 304

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Postlude

Resources

Today's canticles are from Enriching our Worship.

**Today's prayers are from The Book of Common Prayer
and from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.**

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Happy Birthday – Holly Davis 4/30, Stanley Fields 05/01 ,
Hugh D'Aguilar 05/02, Karen Woodruff 05/04.

--April 30, Worship, On YouTube,

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

--Catherine will be at the Diocesan Clergy Retreat from Monday to Wednesday. The Psalms class will resume next Mon. night, May 8th.

--Bible Study, May 3, 10am-12pm. Parish House. The readings are at the following link.

http://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Easter/AEaster5_RCL.html

The National Day of Prayer, Thurs, May 4 is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by Congress and signed into law by President Truman. The closest observance to Port Royal IS 12:00 PM - 1:PM Tabernacle United Methodist Church . 7310-A Old Plank Rd Fredericksburg, VA **You can watch the national broadcast 8 p.m. online https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2023_broadcast**

The Earth Day 2023 Theme is "Invest In Our Planet. What Will You Do?" How much plastic do you use? Find the answer with this calculator.

<https://www.earthday.org/plastic-pollution-calculator-2/> Today! Prizes will be awarded for the smallest piece of trash, the largest piece of trash, the most disgusting piece of trash and the most trash that people have collected for the St Peter's Trashy Contest.

-Shred-it is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10. Time will be announced. Dispose of sensitive documents safely and securely, and free up needed space at home or work. **Start collecting! It is in its 11th year.** Many thanks to Andrea for organizing this ministry each year.

Easter Tide – "50 Days celebrating the season" from Forward Movement <https://50days.org/>. Sign up for daily email meditations.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535
Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908
The Vestry

Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)
Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)
Linda Upshaw (2026)
Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar
Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach
Junior Warden, Cookie Davis
Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist
The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus
(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com
Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring

Prayer List

Marion Mahoney, Ken Pogue, Johnny Davis, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Alice Hughes, Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara and Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Kathleen Curran (Matt Hood's aunt), **T. C. Collins, Wayne Cohen** (cousin of Andrea Pogue), **Jimmy and Nancy Davis** (Johnny Davis' brother and sister in law), **Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother, sisters and brother), **Sylvia Coleman, Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo's daughter and son), **Ed and Doris Hooker, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin** (friend of Marcia Kole), **Nathaniel Schakenberg, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Julie Davis** (sister and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons	Scott Estes	Cliff Lance
Steven Lee	Greg Merkl	Grace Grimaldi
Alexis Rye	Michael Hobbs	Alex Long V