

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
JULY 16, 2023, 11AM**



"The Sower Under Setting Sun" (1888) – Vincent Van Gogh

"You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing."

Psalm 65:12-14

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

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.

Bell Ringing

Prelude

Opening Hymn Oh, let the Son of God enfold you LEVAS 118

The Word of God

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God, for ever and ever.

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.

Hymn of Praise We have come into his house LEVAS 245

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of mercy, in Jesus Christ you freed us from sin and death, and by your Holy Spirit you nourish our mortal bodies with life. Plant us now in good soil, that our lives may flower in righteousness and peace. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 55 verses 10 through 13.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65 *Te decet hymnus*

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.**
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.**
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *

O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.

**6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.**

7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.

**8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your
marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.

**10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.**

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

**12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.**

**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.**

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8, verses 1
through 11.**

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For

those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one

who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

The Affirmation (from Daily Prayers for All Seasons)

As children of God, we affirm:

**That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,
that God is present with all of creation,
and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful.**

Therefore, we too, seek to be faithful.

**That Jesus came to show us love with a human face,
that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf,
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope.**

Therefore, we, too, seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and hope.

**That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,
and that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment,
and that when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way.**

**Therefore, we seek to be people filled with God’s Spirit:
Discerning, loving and transforming our world. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us offer our prayers to God, who comforts, restores, heals, and sows goodness in our hearts.

Let us pray for all the leaders of the world. You have created one human family to live and flourish in peace. Give us the wisdom to order our world that all may find shelter, sustenance, and love. Until your reign of peace comes on this earth, let us pray for those serving in the armed forces of this land, especially those on our prayer list, that they may carry out their duties with honor and return safely home when their work is done. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for your church, especially this church, St Peter's. You have given us the gift of the indwelling Christ, that your church may be faithful, loving, and wise. Give us strength to follow your Son and to care for all in his name, until all the world is filled with his grace and love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need, or are in danger, those on our prayer list, and especially Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Max and Rita Jenson, and Helmut and Susan Linne von Berg. You have made us for a noble purpose, to love and care for each other at every turn. Give us the compassion and skill to love our neighbor and seek the well-being of those in need. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for your creation. We pray for all who suffer from wildfires and floods. We thank you for your faithfulness, revealed in the rhythmic nature of creation, and that your sanctuary is known in the earth itself. Rid us of the apathy and greed that injures its health, for you have bound your creation together for the blessing of all. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us remember those who have died. You call us into communion in worship to glorify you and sing your praise. Make us one with the saints, who have found their eternal rest in you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of goodness and growth, let your love be made real in us this day. Soften the hardened places of our hearts, and make us fruitful in

thought, word, and deed. Mercifully accept our prayers and strengthen us to do your will. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Communion of the People of God

Communion Hymn

Spirit of the living God

LEVAS 115

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Father, we thank thee who hast planted

H 302

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Resources: Today's Collect: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers
Prayers of the People: Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,
Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Hymn Resources:

The text of *Father, we thank thee who hast planted*, dates back to the very early church. The original Greek text, written in 110 CE, was translated into English by F. Bland Tucker. The French tune is from the 1500's.

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>

Catherine will be on vacation, July 23 through July 30. Tom will be preaching and officiating for the next two Sundays.

Birthdays – Christopher Feliciano (07/19), BJ Anderson (7/21).

July 16, Worship, On YouTube,

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

Bible Study, July 19, 10am-12pm. Parish House. 8th Pentecost

http://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp11_RCL.html

Village Harvest Wed, July 19, 3pm,-5PM. Please email Andrea to volunteer at wakepogue.public@gmail.com, or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM.

A new Vestry member—thank you, Larry Saylor. The Vestry has elected Larry Saylor to fill the rest of Robert Bryan's term on the Vestry. Robert is living and working in Florida for now, and so cannot finish out his term.

Van Gogh's Sower. The painting on the cover was inspired by Jean-François Millet's 'Sower' from 1850 which was inspired in turn by Matthew 13, today's Gospel reading. The originality of Van Gogh's painting lies in the juxtaposition of bold colors, with the top part of the picture predominantly yellow and the lower part in complementary violet. Nature is the principal actor in the dramatic painting. The huge sun fills the center of the upper part of the painting and the ploughed earth fills the bottom three quarters of the picture. The Sower strides through the field as an integral part of the landscape itself. More discussions on the sower on our webpage <https://bit.ly/3NQREJ4>

School Supplies for Caroline County. Please place your donations of notebook paper on the back pew by TODAY, July 16 .

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, Larry Saylor (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

Laura Carey, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Ken Pogue, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, 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, Jim Heimbach

Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Ralph Powell (Hicks friend), Lola Delbridge, Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge (friend of the Pogues), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother), 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 and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ed and Doris Hooker, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Otis Felts (friend of Johnny Davis), The Glasgows (friends of the Felicianos), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend 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, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), Lorena McElwain, (friend of the Pogues), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw (Brad's cousin), Joan Pemberton (Brad's aunt), Albert Barnett (Andrea's uncle), Scott Crabtree (Eunice Key's brother), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)

Serving in the Armed Forces

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