

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
NOV. 12, 2023, 11AM**



“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” - Matthew 25:8-13

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## The Twenty-Fourth 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.*

### The Ringing of the Bell

<b>Prelude</b>	<b>Blest are the pure in heart</b>	<b>St Peter's Choir</b>
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<b>Judge eternal, throned in splendor</b>	<b>H 596</b>

### The Word of God

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**Glory to God forever 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

<b>Hymn of Praise</b>	<b>How wondrous and great</b>	<b>H 533</b>
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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

You let us choose, O God, between you and the false gods of this world. In the midst of the night of sin and death, wake us from our slumber and call us forth to greet Christ, so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Prophet Amos, Chapter 5, verses 18-24.**

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,  
and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain  
offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm - Psalm 70**

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \*

O Lord, make haste to help me.

**2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed  
and altogether dismayed; \***

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*  
because they are ashamed.

**4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \***

**let those who love your salvation say for ever,  
"Great is the Lord!"**

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; \*  
come to me speedily, O God.

**6 You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
O Lord, do not tarry.**

**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 First Letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 4,  
verses 13-18.**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**O day of God, draw nigh**

**H 601**

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with

their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Tom Hughes

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

God of life, we praise you for your abiding presence from generation to generation, blessing your people, strengthening us to lives of service, empowering us to witness. Hear the prayers we offer on behalf of your creation.

For the church, wherever it thrives and wherever it struggles, keep us faithful to your gospel. Bless this church in its ministry and witness to your work in this world. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For those who govern, grant them wisdom and a commitment to justice. Deliver all in this world from their selfish schemes, and may the swords of hate fall from every hand, so that Christ's promised reign of peace may become a reality. We pray for an end to all wars.

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour out your mercy upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, and occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice experienced by all. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the veterans who have sacrificed much for the good of all—we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and

women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For your planet, Earth: heal its wounds, and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts. At the heart of life and in its heights glory shines. Within creation and beyond, glory has its source. Guide us to the heart of life, that we may know its heights. Lead us further within, O God, that we may know you as beyond. In the sufferings of our heart and the brokenness of creation, open to us further the doors of the eternal, that through the pain that is within us and the struggles that are around us we may be guided to you as the heart of life. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from anxieties or illness, for all on our prayer list, especially John Hess, Jesse Clarke's family, Cy and Linda Murphy, Beryl Harrison, and Daryl Potter, Gordon Flesher, the Faibisy family and the Linne von Bergs--bring them healing and relief. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For those who endure the days and nights without food or shelter, the homeless all around us, those made homeless by war, for refugees and immigrants--feed and protect them. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in silence, for those who struggle with mental illnesses or addictions and for their families--bring comfort to those who carry secret sorrows. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying--calm all fears and welcome them into your peace. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

For all who seek your face. **Eternal God, hear our prayer.**

Grant that as we serve you now on earth, so we may one day rejoice with all the saints in your kingdom of light and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**BCP 360**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**BCP 830 #51/431**

**Offertory**

**Walk Worthy**

**Joseph M. Martin**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP 367**

**Communion Hymn**

**This is the hour of banquet**

**H 316**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**BCP 365**

### **The Blessing**

Now may God the Father, who created the world;  
God the Son, who redeemed the world;  
God the Holy Spirit who sustains the world; be with you.  
And may God's peace settle deep within you and remain with you  
now and always.

**Closing Hymn**

**Lift up your heads**

**H 436**

### **Dismissal**

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

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

### **Postlude**

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### **Resources:**

**Today's Collect** is from [Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#).

**Prayers of the People:** [Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2](#), Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. Opening and closing, from [Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#). The prayer for peace in the Middle East is by Reverend Said. The prayer for veterans is from [The Book of Common Prayer](#). The prayer for the planet, "At the heart of life" is from [Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter: Morning and Night Prayer](#), John Philip Newell.

## 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 –Jim Anderson (Nov. 12), Susan Linne von Berg (Nov. 14), Dominic Paterino (Nov. 15), Owen Long (Nov. 16)**

**Thanks to Jim and BJ Anderson for fixing the lock on the front door!**

**Thanks to Mary Peterman who has donated three paintings for sale to St. Peter's. The paintings will be sold individually by bid online over two weeks More information & Round 1 bid (Nov 12 Nov. 18,6pm) here - [https://news.churchsp.org/artauction2023\\_round1/](https://news.churchsp.org/artauction2023_round1/)**

**Nov. 12, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.**

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

**Bible Study, Weds, Nov. 15, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**[https://lectionarypage.net/YearA\\_RCL/Pentecost/AProp28\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp28_RCL.html)**

**Village Harvest Wed, Nov 15, 3pm,-5PM, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** Please email Andrea to volunteer at [wakepogue.public@gmail.com](mailto:wakepogue.public@gmail.com), or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM

**Sunday, Nov 19 God's Garden (children 5-9) meets at 10:15 AM. Children will make cards for grandparents.**

**Estimate of Giving Cards are due Nov. 19 for the stewardship campaign, Rooted in Love.** Give in support for this church and in gratitude for the ways that God has blessed you in this community. Online pledge also available <https://news.churchsp.org/eog2024>

**Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28 in support of the Village Harvest, 10<sup>th</sup> year.** The goal is \$575 to cover 25% of next year's costs.

**Two ways to donate to help this ministry:**

- 1. On or before Nov. 28 make out a check to St. Peter's with "Giving Tuesday" in the memo line. Mail or leave in the plate.**
- 2. PayPal. <https://news.churchsp.org/givingtuesday2023/>**

**Episcopal Church Men (ECM) is working with Social Services to provide families in the area with Christmas gift cards. Donate with a check, ECM Christmas in the memo line, by Sun Dec. 3. Donations for the Thanksgiving offering totaled \$1,014.13! Many thanks to contributors!**



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://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](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

**Prayer List**

**Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, The Pannells, The Linne von Bergs, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, The Segars, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach**

**Gordon Flesher, Beryl Harrison, Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, Otis Felts (family and friends of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Ruth and Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Albert Barnett, Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), , Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Orville Watson, The Glasgows (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat , Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), 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