

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020 – 8:00 A.M.

*Our weekly Sunday worship service will be available
beginning at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday, at www.stpetersepiscopal.org
or via our Facebook page, facebook.com/specstl.*

Words of Welcome

*While our buildings are closed, our hearts remain open.
We thank you for inviting us into your homes
and more importantly,
we thank you for inviting the Spirit of God
into your hearts, minds, and lives.*

*Because we have closed our physical church this service has been created
by worship leaders in their homes just as you are in your homes today.
You will recognize many of the words and prayers.
Some have been adapted to reflect our experience of worshipping from home.*

*While technically this is not a Eucharist it is eucharistic,
and while it is not Holy Communion it is offered as a way for us
to commune with each other and Almighty God.*

*As we begin our worship,
we invite you to remember those who typically sit beside you
and those who sit in front of and behind you
and those who come into your mind as you remember.*

*Remember also that as we worship we join with the whole communion of saints,
with those who have gone before us,
those present with us in gatherings around the world
and those saints yet to come.*

*Let us join with all the saints and the whole company of heaven
and worship our God, who makes all things new.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer.

Introit *Vocem jocunditatis*

Plainsong

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, alleluia: utter it even unto the ends of the earth; the Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia, alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands: sing praises unto the honor of his Name; make his praise to be glorious.

– Isaiah 48: 20, Ps. 66

Hymn 417: “This is the feast of victory for our God”

Festival Canticle

Opening Sentences

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity

Priest: 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.**

Gloria in excelsis (*Hymnal S 278*)

William Mathias (1934–1992)

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Risen Lord is with us.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

Lector: A Reading from The Book of The Acts of the Apostles. (17: 22-31)

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination

of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector: **Thanks be to God for this holy word.**

Psalm 66: 7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples;
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life,
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us;
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare;
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and water;
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
 and will pay you my vows,
 which I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
 with the smoke of rams;
 I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth,
 and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart,
 the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me;
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
 nor withheld his love from me.

All: **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.**

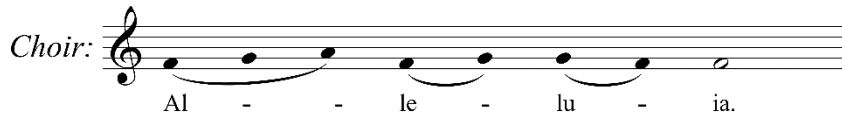
Lector: A Reading from The First Letter of Peter. (3: 13-22)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector: **Thanks be to God for this holy word.**

Alleluia *Surrexit Christus*

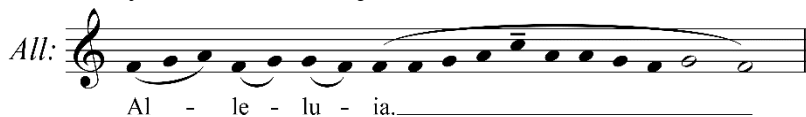
Plainsong, Mode 6



Choir: Christ is risen, and hath showed light unto us: whom he hath redeemed with his most precious blood.



Choir: I will not leave you comfortless: I go away and come again unto you, and your heart shall rejoice.



— John 16:28

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (14: 15-21)

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Priest: Praise to you our living Gospel, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Sermon: Nell Melton

To allow for your personal reflection, a time of silence will be kept following the sermon.

People: **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.**

Prayers of the People

The intercessor will pause at the ... so you may offer your prayers.

Intercessor Today we give thanks for all of the young people of our parish, remembering especially: Campbell Graves, Jimmy Hereford, Patrick Holke, Nell Melton, Lambert Perkins, John Rich, Edward Rohan, Morgan Schafer, Tommy Sheehan, Will Sloane, Johnny Valier, and Sam Wilson, as they complete a major milestone in their lives and graduate from High School.

Almighty God, the source of our being, we give you thanks for the young people of our community. You have blessed them beyond their wildest dreams. You have set before them promises and challenges beyond their understandings; grant them courage to be the people you have created them to be.

Lord, help our young people to walk in faith.

We thank you for the mystery of growing up, the transformation of body, mind, and spirit that brings children to adulthood. As they continue to grow in wisdom, help them forever stay curious and open to wonder and awe in all your works.

Lord, help our young people to walk in faith.

In your love watch over them wherever their journey of life takes them. As they venture forth from our community, help them stay connected to you, secure in your love, and true to themselves, rather than being conformed to the ways of the world that does not know you.

Lord, help our young people to walk in faith.

We give you thanks for their parents, teachers, friends, and relatives who have taught and mentored them on their journey thus far, and we pray for all who are entrusted with the care of children that they know the joy of seeing them grow.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for your church, for Justin Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our presiding Bishop; for the Diocesan Standing Committee and Deon our Bishop-elect; for Rob, Kelly, and Joseph, our clergy; for our staff and the people of St. Peter's, that all would be faithful in creating a hospitable community for us and all your children to grow in knowledge of you and your love and purpose.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for young people who are broken, hungry, lost, and alone, for whom love and friendship do not exist and simple survival is a daily battle. Open our eyes and hearts to them and all people who despair in our community.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for the leaders of our nation and the world, that they would lead us all to do what we can to create a world where love prevails and future generations are free from famine, war, injustice, bullying, and bigotry.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for the decisions adults make every day about the way we all live, that they would choose to care for your creation so that our future families may also enjoy clean air and water, and behold you in the beauty of all that you have made.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for all who are ill, especially Brooke Erwin, Fran Kempton, Bryan Miller, Linda Morotz, Ned Lemkemeier, Greyson Schnoebelen, Carl Schuldt and Julie Stephenson, for their family members who worry, and for those on our hearts this day. . .

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We pray for all who have died, especially William Nakajo and Eleanor Weaver, and for those on our hearts today... and for all who grieve with broken hearts and shattered dreams...

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

We give thanks for the birth of Walter Shoenberg Peters, and celebrate with Julie and Turner, his parents, in the miracle of new life.

Lord, help us all to walk together in faith.

Priest: Almighty God the source of all love, grant us your sustaining joy and peace which none can take from us. Help us know that we have a place in your heart, with love to share, people to care for, and a life to live in friendship with your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing for our Graduates

Priest: Watch over your friends, Campbell, Jimmy, Patrick, Nell, Lambert, John, Edward, Morgan, Tommy, Will, Johnny, and Sam, O Lord, so that they can look forward to the days when they can look back and behold with wonder the great things they have co-created with you.

The God of Truth bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficiality so that you live from deep within your heart.

The God of Understanding make you tender in the face of pain and rejection so that others can know the comfort of your acceptance.

The God of Justice make you fierce in the face of oppression and exploitation so that others can live with dignity in the midst of your respect.

The God of all Wisdom bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what many claim cannot be done.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Life-Giving Spirit be amongst you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever. **Amen.**

Exchanging the Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to take a moment and extend the peace of God to members of your household and then to people in the world whom you love and struggle to love.

Please Stay Connected

Please continue to check our website www.stpeterseiscopal.org and News from the Rock for our virtual programing and updates on our work as a church in the world when our doors are closed but our hearts remain open.

Each Sunday we will also be hosting a live Children's Chapel on Zoom at 10:15 a.m. followed by a live adult forum on Zoom at 10:30 a.m.

Please check your email updates and News from the Rock for the Zoom access information.

Please Give Online

Since we are gathering virtually, we are not passing the offertory plates and so we do ask that you go online to www.stpeterseiscopal.org and select the "Give" or the "Realm" link to make a donation or to pay your pledge.

If you have any questions about our online giving please contact Darlene at finance@stpeterseiscopal.org.

St. Peter's High School Class of 2020

(Congratulations to all of our Seniors, including any who may be missing below!)

- **Campbell Graves** is graduating from MICDS. He is currently deciding where he will be this fall.
- **Jimmy Hereford** is graduating from MICDS. He is interested in pursuing a degree in sports management and is currently deciding between attending the University of Oregon and Michigan State University.
- **Patrick Holke** is graduating from Ladue High School. He will be attending the University of Missouri, Columbia, and plans to study to become a high school history teacher.
- **Nell Melton** is graduating from MICDS. She will be attending the University of Virginia and plans to major in Mathematics and Economics.
- **Lambert Perkins** is graduating from Choate Rosemary Hall. She will be attending Washington University, studying in the Olin Business School.
- **John Rich** is graduating from John Burroughs School. He is currently deciding between attending the University of Utah and Wabash College.
- **Edward Rohan** is graduating from Christian Brothers College High School. Right now he is undecided about where he will attend college this fall.
- **Morgan Schafer** is graduating from Southbank International School in London. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and plans to major in pre-health, hoping to one day serve as a nurse practitioner in a children's hospital.
- **Tommy Sheehan** is graduating from MICDS. He will be attending Elon University, where he will be a Business Fellow.
- **Will Sloane** is graduating from MICDS. He will be attending Purdue University and plans to study mechanical engineering.
- **Johnny Valier** is graduating from Ladue High School. He will be attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins.
- **Sam Wilson** is graduating from Clayton High School. After taking a gap year, he will be attending Indiana University, studying in the Kelley School of Business as a member of the Honors College.

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Priest: I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

The Anthem: Wade in the Water

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

God's a gonna trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children.

Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white. The leader looks like an Israelite.

See that band all dressed in red. Well it looked like the band that Moses led.

*As we gather with all the saints, past, present and future at this altar
we remember the people who are ill and pray for their recovery.*

*We remember especially the people in the medical profession,
doctors, nurses, technicians, emergency workers, and others
who are putting their lives on the line to care for those who are sick.*

*We offer our worship to the glory of God with gratitude for their courage and service
and with our prayers for their safety.*

The Great Thanksgiving: Adapted from Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361

Priest: The Lord is present with us.

We lift our hearts to the Lord and give God 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world, and all that separates us from you. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Mass in E, Jeffrey Smith

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho-
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Priest:

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.

Priest:

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 ourselves, our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice.

Sanctify us by your Holy Spirit to faithfully 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 forever. **AMEN.**

Priest: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: **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.**

Fraction Anthem (*Hymnal S 155*)

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

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

Spiritual Communion

Priest: Remember O people of God, who Jesus was, and is, and will be forevermore.
Behold in him his Body and Blood, broken and shed for us all.
Let us feed on him in our hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

*While we are unable to physically partake of the sacrament,
we invite you to make your communion by praying the following prayer,
adapted from the prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori:*

All: **Beloved Jesus,
We believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of the altar.
We long for you in our souls,
to know that we are in you and that you are in us.
Though physically isolated from your altar
and the sacrament of your Body and Blood,
We receive you into our hearts and the depths of our being.
United with you, help us know
that our lives are hid with you O Christ in the heart of God. Amen.**

A moment of silence is kept.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Priest: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, giver of life and destroyer of death, you have graciously reunited us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and have hid us with him in you. In our lives, fix that morning star which never sets, the risen light of Christ, so that together we will walk in your presence, serving one another, with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Easteride Blessing

Priest: Alleluia, Christ is Risen:

People: **The Lord is Risen indeed, alleluia!**
Alleluia, Christ is Risen:
The power of death has been destroyed, alleluia!
Alleluia, Christ is Risen:
The tombs of the dead are empty, alleluia!
Alleluia, Christ is Risen:
All that separates us from God is gone, alleluia!
Alleluia, Christ is Risen:
The whole of creation rejoices, alleluia!

Priest: And the blessing of new life from God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Life-Giver, be among you, and remain with you and all those whom you love and struggle to love, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Hymn 488: "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart"

Slane

MUSIC NOTES: The Introit is sung by Amanda Meinen, alto. The Alleluia is sung by Samantha Arten, soprano. • The recording of the opening hymn is from the Third Sunday of Easter 2016. • The recording of the Anthem is from the Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord 2018. The bass soloist is Jim Kalkbrenner. • The final hymn is from the Sixth Sunday of Easter 2017. • The Gloria and the Sanctus were sung on the Second Sunday of Easter, 2018. • The Fraction Anthem was sung on the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 2019. • OneLicense reprint and podcasting license A-722743. For all other copyright holders, permission requested.

PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: Brooke Erwin, Ned Lemkemeier, Bryan Miller, Linda Morotz and Carl Schuldt.

For Family and Friends: Fran Kempton, Greyson Schnoebelen and Julie Stephenson.

For the Faithful Departed: William Nakajo and Eleanor Weaver.

For the Men and Women of the Armed Forces: Zach Greata and Matt Robinson.

For those Committed to Our Ongoing Prayers: Michelle Arthur, Donna Brookman, Arlene Burnham, Chris Canepa, Elizabeth Clarke, Devon Corbett, Kathryn Dewein, Lucy Dolan, Greg Evans, Carol Fisher, Samantha Forsko, Karen Goddard, Patty Hecker, Clayton Hicks, Laney Johnson, Susan Kerkering, Madelyn Lane, Ann McDonald, Bill McMahan, Elizabeth Mendoza, Cheryl Meyer, Steven Minton, Signe Myles, Louisa Rix, Jeffrey Rixleben, Sarah Roberts, Rory Sabbah, Kathy Sheehan, Gerald Spencer, Wayne Spohr, Jane St. John, Julie Stephenson, Rebecca Tyler, Meg Walters, Scott Weaver, Rolla Wetzel, Dick Williams and Joey Wilson.

TODAY...

NOTE FROM THE RECTOR – Our church buildings will remain closed during May. Consistent with the guidance issued by our Bishop and Bishop-elect to churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, St. Peter’s will remain closed through the end of May. While various government authorities are making a variety of decisions about the authority of houses of worship to reopen, at this time the clergy and vestry of St. Peter’s believe that worshipping and fellowshiping together virtually is the wisest course of action to protect the health of all of our parishioners.

This month we will begin planning for a return to “in person” worship, hopefully in June, considering how best to creatively employ social distancing and other measures to make our reunion both joyful and safe. In the meantime, please continue to join us for worship on Youtube and Facebook, and Children’s Chapel via Zoom.

And please remember that while our buildings are closed, our hearts remain open and our staff are available for phone and zoom consultation. And we invite you all to think of parishioners who are alone at this time and may need a call or assistance in running errands.

—Rob Voyle, *Interim Rector*

STAY CONNECTED – Please “Follow Us” and “Like Us” on our social media pages!

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/specstl>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/specstl/>

ZOOM LINKS – To ensure that our virtual time together remains a sacred and welcoming space, Zoom links are not available on our website. **Find details on how to join Zoom sessions in *News from the Rock* online newsletter which is emailed each week.** Don’t miss an opportunity to join us! If you are not signed up for the newsletter, visit our website homepage. Scroll down to “Get Weekly News” and sign up!

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – Join us online at 10:15 on Sunday mornings for our beloved Sunday morning Children’s Chapel! You can find instructions for joining us via Zoom in Friday’s *News from the Rock*. We can’t wait to see you!

COFFEE WITH THE RECTOR – Join Rob via a live Zoom chat on Sunday mornings at 10:30. For those unable to connect by the internet you can call in by telephone. The link to join will be in Friday’s *News from The Rock*. **Today** we will discuss plans for re-entry into our building. Join Rob to explore parishioner thoughts on plans to return to using our buildings for worship and meetings now that the Stay-at-Home orders are being relaxed. While we will be closed at least through May 31, some are saying it is too soon even then to return to in-person worship in our buildings. We need your input on the timing of our return and other things we need to do to ensure that people are safe when coming to church.

THIS WEEK...

MORNING PRAYER – Brew a cup of tea or coffee, and let’s pray each morning with and for one another, the community and the world. Join via Zoom at 8:00 each morning, Monday through Friday. The link is provided in Friday’s *News from the Rock*.

WOMAN’S GUILD – Join us this Tuesday for great conversation via Zoom at 2:00 p.m. The link is provided in your weekly Guild email. Set aside some time for a bit of laughter and to catch up with one another!

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – Enjoy lunch with Fr. Joseph and Mrs. Babington! This is a great chance to connect midweek with families and children of all ages. Join us **each Wednesday at Noon** for a live Zoom meeting while you are eating lunch. Let’s enjoy time to talk with one another, hear a Bible Story, learn a new song, and discuss how we might continue to help others during this time of staying at home. Watch for the Zoom link in your weekly email, and let’s all look forward to our very own lunch meeting every Wednesday!

SPECIAL GIFTS — What a perfect time to show your gratitude with a gift in honor of a graduate or another special person in your life. Your gift will support the ministry of St. Peter’s Church. Ways to donate:

1. Mail addressed to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 110 N. Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63124.
2. Make your pledge payment or gift online at www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give .
3. Give by text - simply type SPECSTL to 73256 and follow the prompts.

OUR EASTER OFFERING – Forty-nine percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. More than 33.5 million Americans are now unemployed, and as of this week more than 600,000 people in Missouri have applied for unemployment benefits since mid-March. One in every six individuals lives in poverty and struggles with hunger in the greater **St. Louis** region, including more than 172,000 children. Please consider donating to provide much-needed immediate relief to people who have been affected by Covid-19. The St. Peter’s Outreach Committee has selected five organizations providing food, supplies, and monetary relief to our community. St. Peter’s is donating \$20,000 (\$4,000 to each organization) and so far St. Peter’s parishioners have generously given an additional \$6,425. We are making it easy for you to take action! Visit www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give and click on the “**Easter Offering - Outreach**” button. With your help we hope to double the amount St. Peter’s can give to these frontline efforts to love one another as Jesus loved us. Listed below are the five organizations. Visit their websites for further information:

- [Trinity Church \(Central West End\) Food Pantry](#)
- [St. Louis Area Food Bank](#)
- [Urban League Food and Toiletries Distribution](#)
- [Great Circle St. Louis](#)
- [Gateway Resilience Fund](#)

ASCENSION DAY CELEBRATION – THURSDAY, MAY 21st – Jesus’ ascension is the culmination of the Jesus story that began with his incarnation when God became human and dwelt among us. In the ascension Jesus takes our humanity into the heart of God. We now pray to the God who totally understands what it means to be a human being. On Ascension Day we will celebrate the wonderful mystery that our life is now hid with Christ in God. Our worship service will be available on youtube **beginning at Noon this Thursday**. Join us!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY – After seven years of serving as Director of Christian Education, Ann Babington will be retiring this summer. While it may be hard to imagine our children’s ministries without the amazing Mrs. Babington at the helm, if you love children and seek a spiritually rewarding part-time position, we hope you can picture yourself in this job! If you are interested in obtaining a job description and much more information, please contact Rob Voyle at robv@stpeterseiscopal.org or Ann at annbabington@gmail.com. And stay tuned for information about a celebration of Ann’s joyful ministry among us!

50 DAYS OF EASTER – As part of the Fifty Days of Easter program, Rob will be guiding us through a weekly formation piece via Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join in the live Zoom call, or watch the recording from our YouTube page the next day. The link is provided in Friday’s *News from the Rock*. If you missed the last Wednesday evening session, watch from our YouTube page.

SHARE THE PEACE! – Would you consider serving in our online Sunday worship service by responding to the clergy’s offering of the Peace on video? We would love to see more parishioners sharing the joy of Easter in our virtual worship together, and what better way than by sharing the Peace of the Lord! If you have the means to record yourself and/or members of your family sharing the Peace and would like to participate in the adventure of online worship, please email the Rev. Kelly Carlson at kcarlson@stpeterseiscopal.org.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY – While St. Peter’s campus is closed, Friday Bible Study will be happening via Zoom. If you would like to join the 7:00 a.m. conversation, please email kcarlson@stpeterseiscopal.org by Thursday evening, and Kelly will send you the link.

PENTECOST SUNDAY – Celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit with Bishop-elect Deon! We are excited to have our Bishop-elect, the Rev. Deon Johnson, make his first visitation to St. Peter’s in two weeks, on the Feast of Pentecost. **Join Bishop-elect Deon for worship on youtube, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on May 31st.** We hope children of all ages will warmly welcome him to Children’s Chapel at 10:15 on Zoom. Finally, come to Coffee with the Bishop-elect at 10:30 via Zoom, where Bishop-elect Deon will be ready to answer your questions, and may have a few to ask us in return. Help us to make Bishop-elect Deon’s first celebration of Pentecost in Missouri a joyful morning! See you on the 31st.

ST. PETER’S CARES – Need a ride, a meal or a prayer? St. Peter’s has a ministry that can help – that’s St. Peter’s Cares! Leave a voicemail or email (314-993-2306, ext. 125 or shepherd@stpeterseiscopal.org) and a Shepherd will contact you within 24 hours.

Immediately following this service on Sunday morning beginning at 10:15, join Children’s Chapel and Coffee with the Rector, live via Zoom. The link may be found in your Friday News from the Rock enews.

Remember that though our buildings are closed, our hearts are open!
