

ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN ESSEX FELLS
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK
271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021
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The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We are a church rooted in Christian tradition, and open to new ideas, committed to service in community and world as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The work of worship is shared by all, and we invite you to participate in the said and sung responses as you are able.

Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church

Voluntary

Voluntary for Handbells

Richard Proulx

Entrance Hymn 390 *Hymnal 1982*

LOBE DEN HERREN

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Song of Praise, *Benedictus es, Domine*

Richard Proulx

Cantor *Lord God of Creation, you are blest and adored.*



Praised and ex - alt - ed a - bove all for - ev - er.

For the glory of your holy name, you are blest and adored.

ALL PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.

For the splendor of your temple, you are blest and adored.

ALL PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.

Throned upon the Cherubim, plumbing the depths, you are blest and adored.

ALL PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.

In the high vault of heaven, you are blest and adored.

ALL PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are blest and adored.

ALL PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader Let us pray. Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many

generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-7, 9 *Beatus vir*

BCP, page 755

The refrain is sung by the Cantor and repeated by all.



Hap-py are they who fear the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel procession and sing

Hymn

LIGHT OF MINE

Spiritual, arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

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

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

[Jesus said] “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rector

Nicene Creed

BCP, page 358

Prayers of the People

Intercessor ...let us pray to the Lord:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin and the Peace

BCP, page 360

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code (right). Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.



Anthem

Freda Pullen Bagly, Horace Clarence Boyer

*It's my desire to be like the Lord.
It's my desire to be like Him.
It's my desire to show that I care,
To be a friend, doing my full share;*

*Till the end, though it is so rare;
Through rain and wind, to kneel in prayer;
To be a soldier for His great cause;
To live my life as He did His.*

—Freda Pullen Bagby and Horace Clarence Boyer

Hymn 380 (stanza 3) *Hymnal 1982*

OLD HUNDREDTH

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, page 361

Sanctus

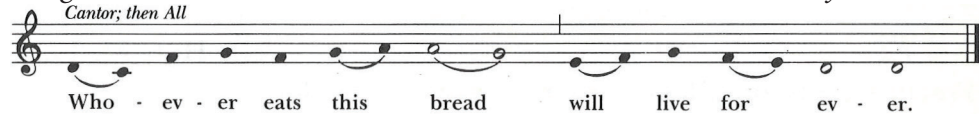
Hymnal 1982, S-128

Lord's Prayer

BCP, page 364

Breaking the Bread

Hymnal 1982, S 170



Invitation

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.

Anthem

Traditional Spiritual, arr. K. Lee Scott

Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone.

I'll never turn back no more.

He whom I fix my hopes upon.

I'll never turn back no more.

His path I see, and I'll pursue.

I'll never turn back no more.

The narrow way to Him I view.

I'll never turn back no more.

—John Cennick, 1718-1755

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God: that we, who have been made partakers of one bread and one cup, may evermore live as one body in Jesus Christ your Son and joyfully proclaim the good news of his salvation; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn 555 *Hymnal 1982*

LANCASHIRE

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NOTICES

STEWARDSHIP 2026—GIFTS FROM OUR SOULS

Our annual stewardship drive, *Gifts from Our Souls*, continues. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus tells us whatever we value most will be the focus of our deepest affections. As we prayerfully consider how much we want to give, let's ask ourselves the question, "What do we love about St. Peter's, and how can help these good things grow?"

ST. PETER'S YOUTH (SPY) PANCAKE SUPPER

Be sure to sign up for our pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, *Tuesday February 10*, Adults \$10; Kids \$5; Families \$25; Tickets will not be sold at the door. Venmo [@Christina-Doyle-15](https://www.venmo.com/Christina-Doyle-15) (last four digits: 7878) or make your payment during Coffee Hour *today*. Please indicate how many are attending. *The supper is being held a week before Shrove Tuesday due to school schedules.*

LENT 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY: THE FIRST DAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 18

Ashes and Holy Eucharist at 7 am, 4 pm, 7 pm

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 22

The Great Litany and Holy Eucharist at 8 am and 4 pm

The Great Litany in Procession and Choral Eucharist at 10 am

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is a forty-day period (not counting Sundays) of fasting, prayer, penitence, and alms-giving in preparation for the fifty-day celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection, Easter. The *Gloria in excelsis*, *Te Deum*, and all Alleluias are absent, and the liturgy takes on a more introspective and quiet nature.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for volunteers to help teach in our Sunday School program! No experience is necessary—just a love for our ministry and for working with children. Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, your time and presence can make a meaningful difference. If you're interested or would like more information, I'd love to hear from you. Please consider sharing your gifts and being part of this joyful ministry. Thank you for supporting our children and our church community.—*Lindsay Thompson* (thompson@stpetersef.org).

JOIN A CHOIR

The *Parish Choir* (Adults and older teens) rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Choir Room. The *Handbell Choir* rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the south transept of the nave. Contact Mark Trautman. *Thanks to our Handbell Choir for playing today's opening Voluntary!*

COFFEE HOUR—*A special time for fellowship!*

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour on Sundays immediately after the 10 am service. It is an important time for us to connect with one another and meet our guests and visitors. You can sign

up on the sheet posted in the upper room or contact Mary Shearin at shearchaos38@gmail.com to let us know the date you prefer. Feel free to sign up with a friend! All instructions will be provided.

PRAYER LIST

St. Peter's is a community of prayer and service. Holding one another's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice at the heart of our life together as a parish family. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family. We invite you to add yourself or others to the St. Peter's prayer list by submitting a request to the Parish Office.

Laurie Alcott, Joan Aliotta, Stanley Au, Amye Becker, Duffy Bell, Nancy Bivona, Kris Blake, Carl, Carl Carvell, Muriel Bowness, Kathy Calfee, Martha Capel, Frank Cintron, Adele Corcoran, Becky Dawson, Gabriel Cowell, Arnie Hartelius, Wayne Hill, Tania Jenkins, Eddie K., Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Robert Kazimir, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Katie King, Neal King, Lauren L., Laurieann, Sally L., Mark Lewis, Ben M., Marino Family, Tom Marriott, Bill Musser, Nunno Family, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Kathy Stanton, Frank Zupa.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION—*Anglican Church in Hong Kong and Macao*

DIocese of Newark—*St. Peter's, Clifton and Church of the Saviour, Denville*



MINISTERS TODAY

Annetta Benedict, Candace Carr, Diane Waitts, *Altar Guild*; Christine DiGiovanni, Nancy Connor, *Readers*; Koen Vonderahe, *Acolyte*; TBA, *Eucharistic Minister*; Barbara Lopez, *Usher*; Kevin Johnson, Giulia Utz, *Cantors*; Mark Trautman, *Director of Music*; The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon*; The Rev. Nate Darville, *Presider*



ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP • WONDER • WORK • ALL IN LOVE

THE VESTRY

Jim Irwin and Barbara Gariulo, *Wardens*;

Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher, *Vestry Members*

THE STAFF

The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector* (darville@stpetersef.org)

The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon* (whatley@stpetersef.org)

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator* (trautman@stpetersef.org)

Lindsay Thompson, *Director of Sunday School* (thompson@stpetersef.org)

Chris Shearin, *Sexton* (shearin@stpetersef.org)

DJ Elmore, *Bookkeeper* (bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com)

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