

**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 Fourth Sunday in Lent: Laetare Sunday*  
*March 30, 2025*

**Welcome**

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 worldwide 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.

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 with your capable electronic device. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.



***Holy Eucharist at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock, All Saints' Chapel***

*The service begins in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), page 351*

*The Lessons may be found in the 10 o'clock portion of this worship bulletin (below)*

*Psalm 32 may be found on page 624 of the BCP*

*The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A, may be found on page 361 of the BCP*



***Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church***

Voluntary

*Prelude in C*

*Michael Bedford*  
*St. Peter's Handbell Choir*

Entrance Hymn 471 *The Hymnal* 1982

BRESLAU

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Opening Acclamation

*BCP, page 351*

*Presider* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Confession

*BCP, page 352*

Absolution

*BCP, page 353*

*Please stand*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

BCP, page 218

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

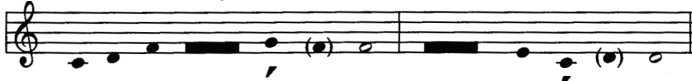
First Reading

*Joshua 5:9-12*

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



- Cantor* Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*
- ALL* and whose sin is / put *a*-way!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no *guilt*, \*  
and in whose spirit there / is **no** guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered *away*, \*  
because of my groaning / all *day* long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and *night*; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the / heat *of* summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to *you*, \*  
and did not con / ceal *my* guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the *LORD*." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt / of *my* sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of *trouble*; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they / shall **not** reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts /of *de*-liverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should *go*; \*  
I will guide you / with **my** eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no *understanding*; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will / not *stay* near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the *wicked*; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust / in *the* LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the *LORD*; \*  
shout for joy, all who are / true *of* heart.

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of

reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand and join in singing the hymn*

Hymn 657    *The Hymnal 1982*

HYFRYDOL

Gospel Reading

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

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

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:...“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached

the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon  
 Nicene Creed

*The Rector*  
*BCP, page 358*

Prayers of the People

*Leader* ...God, in your mercy,

*People* **Renew us.**

The Peace

*BCP, page 360*

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

*Ralph Vaughan Williams*

*Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,  
 Guilty of dust and sin.*

*“A guest,” I answer’d, “worthy to be here”;  
 Love said, “You shall be he.”*

*But quick-ey’d Love, observing me grow slack  
 From my first entrance in,*

*“I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear,  
 I cannot look on thee.”*

*Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
 If I lack’d anything.*

*Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
 “Who made the eyes but I?”*

*“Truth, Lord, but I have marr’d them; let my shame  
 Go where it doth deserve.”*

*“And know you not,” says Love, “who bore the blame?”*

*“My dear, then I will serve.”*

*“You must sit down,” says Love, “and taste my meat.”  
 So I did sit and eat.*

—George Herbert

*Please stand*

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A

*BCP, page 361*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Sanctus*

*Hymnal 1982, S 124*

Lord's Prayer

*BCP, page 364*

Breaking the Bread

*Martens*



Bless - ed are those who are called to the Sup - per of the Lamb.

*Cantor* Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him all you peoples.  
For his loving kindness toward us is great,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. REFRAIN

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.*

Communion Hymn 671 *The Hymnal 1982*

NEW BRITAIN

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

**Almighty and eternal God,**

**the light of all who come into the world:**

**Fill our hearts, we pray, with the light of your heavenly grace,**

**that our thoughts may always please you,**

**and our words and deeds may bear witness to our love for you;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please remain standing and join in singing the closing hymn*

*Please kneel or sit for the Prayer over the People*

*Presider* Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who bow before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Procession and leave quietly after the ministers depart the Nave*

#### LITURGICAL NOTE

The Fourth Sunday in Lent has been called *Laetare* Sunday since medieval times. It is also known as *Mothering Sunday* and *Refreshment Sunday*. It marks a mid-way point between the penitential emphasis of Lent; after today, the prayers and readings point toward Christ's entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion. It is a moment in season in which we are invited to ease our Lenten discipline for a day and refresh ourselves through feasting and resting. Please join us for a special Coffee Hour today following the 10 am mass, and thanks to Jill and Rich Hanifan for hosting.

#### THIS WEEK'S PARISH NOTICES

##### STEWARDSHIP 2025

This year's theme is *Walk in Love*, taken from the Letter to the Ephesians: "Walk in love as Christ has loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2). Make your pledge online at <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form>. Contact a member of the Vestry or Father Nate to find out more about how you can *Walk in Love* at St. Peter's.

##### ADULT FORUM, SUNDAYS AT 9 AM

Join us from 9-9:45 in the Acolyte Room (upstairs in the main church) on Sundays for a challenging, enriching, in-depth study of Paul's "letters" to the Philippians. Reach out to Jonathan Lace ([jdlace@icloud.com](mailto:jdlace@icloud.com)) for more information.

##### GOD'S CHILDREN SING!

Our Sunday School children are busily preparing a song for the 9 am mass on Easter Day. Singing is a vital part of Christian education and formation—we tend to believe what we sing; and of course there is the old saying, "those who sing pray twice." This is a great opportunity for our children to lead our parish community in the work of worship. And take a moment to ask your young singer what *Alleluia* means! Contact Mark Trautman ([trautman@stpetersef.org](mailto:trautman@stpetersef.org)) to find out more.

##### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Help make St. Peter's a welcoming place by signing up to be a Coffee Hour host! This is an important time for us to connect with one another and meet our guests and visitors. Please either sign up on the sheet posted in the upper room or contact Mary Shearin ([shearchaos38@gmail.com](mailto:shearchaos38@gmail.com), 973-590-1678) to let us know the date you prefer.



CARE & CONNECT

*Cross Roads Retreat*—If you are in need of a mental health day, please join me at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center in Port Murray for *Wednesdays Away*. The *April 2 session, Lenten Lost and Found*, examines Psalm 32, “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sin is put away!” Time is 9 am-3 pm, cost is \$50, and it is open to all. For more information: [www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away) or reach out to me. —*Dana Leach* ([leach@stpetersef.org](mailto:leach@stpetersef.org), cell 201-694-6543).

PRAYER LIST

*Laurie Alcott, Stanley Au, Amye Becker, Duffy Bell, Grace Bishop, Nancy Bivona, Kris Blake, Carl, Murriel Bowness, Kathy Calfee, Martha Capel, Adele Corcoran, Gabriel Cowell, Wayne Hill, Bunny Jenkins, Tania Jenkins, Sheila & Norman Johnson, Eddie K., Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Katie King, Julie Lanning, Lauren L., Laurieann, Sally L., Mark Lewis, Ben M., Marino Family, Tom Marriott, Nunno Family, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Mike, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Jean Whiting Smith, Kathy Stanton, Frank Zupa.*

EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC

Please mark “Flowers” or “Music” in the memo line of your check, and let the Parish Office know if you are giving your gift in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. The names may be sent to the Parish Office ([info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)) or placed in the alms basin. Please make sure to deliver your gift and names no later than Monday, April 14.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle one: Flowers Music Both*

In memory of/in thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

- Altar Guild* Alice Samuels, Nancy Connor, Annetta Benedict
- Ushers* Barbara Gargiulo
- Acolytes* Colin Carr
- Readers* Valerie Felix, Matthew Grothues
- Eucharistic Minister*
- Cantors* Michael Barretti, Kevin Johnson
- Director of Music* Mark Trautman
- Presiding* The Reverend Nathaniel Darville

THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- Jim Irwin and Mary Shearin, *Wardens*
- Christine Albano, David Cowell, Barbara Gargiulo, Erika Grothues,
- Sarah Latson, Kurt Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

THE STAFF OF ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector*, [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org)
- Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator*, [trautman@stpetersef.org](mailto:trautman@stpetersef.org)
- Dana Leach, *Care and Connect*, [leach@stpetersef.org](mailto:leach@stpetersef.org)
- Debra Jean Elmore, *Bookkeeper*, [bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com)

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