



**St. Peter's by-the-Sea  
Episcopal Church**



**Bay Shore  
New York 11706**

*We extend a warm welcome to everyone, especially any visitors who may be worshiping with us today.*

*If you do not already have a church home, please feel welcome to join this Parish family.*

*Our Services begin with the Opening Voluntary.  
You are invited to enter quietly into the spirit of worship  
as the music is played.*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY  
IN LENT**

**THE PENITENTIAL ORDER WITH THE  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I**



**Opening Voluntary** Trumpet Tune in e minor

Robert J. Powell

**A Penitential Order**

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

*People* His mercy endureth for ever.

*Celebrant*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*Matthew 22:37-40*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

*Bishop*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **The Song of Praise**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Lessons**

**The First Lesson:** Exodus 20:1-17

*Lector* A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 19** (*Said by all*)

*Lector* 1 *The heavens declare the glory of God,\**

*All* and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another,\*

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language,\*

and their voices are not heard,

- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands,\*  
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;\*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again;\*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the Lord is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**The Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*Lector* A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The congregation stands for the reading of the Gospel.*

**The Gospel:** John 2:13-22

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

**The Sermon**

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty

**The Nicene Creed**

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.

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Intercessor says*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Lawrence, GERALYN, Daniel, and William, Bishops of the Diocese of Long Island; and Johncy, our Bishop-in-Residence, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially the President of the United States, the members of Congress, and all regional and local authorities, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Alex, Andrea, Ann, Annakutty, Anthony, Autumn, Ben, Betty, Betty C., Caroline, Chris, David, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Emily, Gary, George, Greg, Hannah, Helen, Jackie, Joanne, Joe, Joel, John, Joy, June, Kamryn, Karen, Ken, Lorraine, Mark, Mark O., Matthew, Michelle, Mike, Nancy, Paul, Peter, Roger, Roxane, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Theresa, Tria, and William; and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Christian, Erik, John, Robert, and Stephen;

*Lord, hear our prayer*

For the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers; . . . For our companion dioceses of Torit and Ecuador-Central, and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by natural dis-

asters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice; For the petitions in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer this week; . . . And for any other special needs of this congregation, I invite your intercessions now, silently or aloud.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; remembering especially all whose lives have been lost to Corona virus; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Peter, St. Edmund, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

*Lord, hear our prayer*

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*The Presider may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

## **The Peace**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Music at the Offering** Hymn Prelude "The God of Abraham praise"

Flor Peeters

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

*The Celebrant continues*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

*And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,*

*People and Celebrant*

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.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*grant us thy peace.*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

*AT THE TIME FOR COMMUNION:*

- ◆ *Only the Host (Bread) will be distributed; not wine*
- ◆ *Please approach the Altar in SINGLE FILE from the CENTER AISLE only, not the side aisles*
- ◆ *Observe Social Distancing in the aisle by using the pew markers for vacant pews*
- ◆ *Communicants should sanitize their hands before receiving the host. You may use your own, or a bottle is placed at the head of the aisle*
- ◆ *The Host will be placed in the palm of each Communicant, not on the tongue*
- ◆ *Please return to your seat, by way of the side aisles*
- ◆ *Remove your mask to take the Host, then replace the mask for the remainder of the service*

**The Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant*      *Let us pray.*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

**The Solemn Prayer over the People**

*Celebrant*

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Voluntary:** Trumpet Tune in D Major

Robert J. Powell

— FOR THE SERVICE —

*Officiant and Preacher*

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty

*Lectors*

Jade Aiken, Jaelle Aiken, Nicholas Esposito, Carl Siciliano

*Lay Eucharistic Minister and Intercessor*

Bob Birch

*Acolyte*

William Logan

*Organist*

Mark Engelhardt

*Ushers*

Marc Johnston

*Altar Guild*

Kathy Birch, Joan Derle, Laura McLaughlin

— PARISH NOTICES —

**TODAY IS THE “RESCHEDULED” SCOUT SUNDAY**, having been snowed out in February, and we are pleased to welcome the boys and girls of BSA Troop 43 and their families to the 10am service this morning. At the time of the announcements, Giovanni Guilletto will receive his Eagle Patch. This is usually done during an Eagle Scout Ceremony, but those are restricted due to the pandemic. Gio’s project entailed building a chicken run at The Lewis Oliver Farm Sanctuary in Northport. Congratulations, Gio!

**BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES:** Tuesdays at 10:30am in the Lounge and Sundays at 9am in the Lounge. Bring your bible and a mask! All are invited.

**WE JUST HAD A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE OFFICES,** and extension numbers have changed. If you call into the office to leave a message, please listen to the greeting for the correct extension numbers.

**OUR NEXT CLEAN-UP DAY WILL BE NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 13!** All are invited to help . . .

**OUR PROJECT OF RECORDING THE DAILY OFFICE AND OTHER SERVICES AND PORTIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER IS IN PROGRESS.** The audio files are now available online on our Soundcloud Channel “St. Peter’s Bay Shore”, or on CD as requested. Please contact Mark Engelhardt if you would like CD’s cut for you.

**OUR TWO LONG-STANDING AA GROUPS** continue to meet on Monday and Friday evenings. We also have meetings for Al-Anon on Friday mornings at 10am and Sunday evenings at 7pm, and a support group for heroin addiction, meeting on Sunday evenings. Please contact Megan via the hotline: 631-210-6297 or [www.halongisland.org](http://www.halongisland.org) if interested in joining the HA group.

— PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK —

**We pray for those who have asked our prayers:** Alex, Andrea, Ann, Annakutty, Anthony, Autumn, Ben, Betty, Betty C., Caroline, Chris, David, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Emily, Gary, George, Greg, Hannah, Helen, Jackie, Joanne, Joe, Joel, John, Joy, June, Kamryn, Karen, Ken, Lorraine, Mark, Mark O., Matthew, Michelle, Mike, Nancy, Paul, Peter, Roger, Roxane, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Theresa, Tria, and William;

**We pray for those who have died;** remembering especially all whose lives have been lost to Corona virus, and those grieving the death of a loved one, that they may they find comfort and peace;

**We pray for those in military service,** and especially for Christian, Erik, John, Robert, and Stephen;

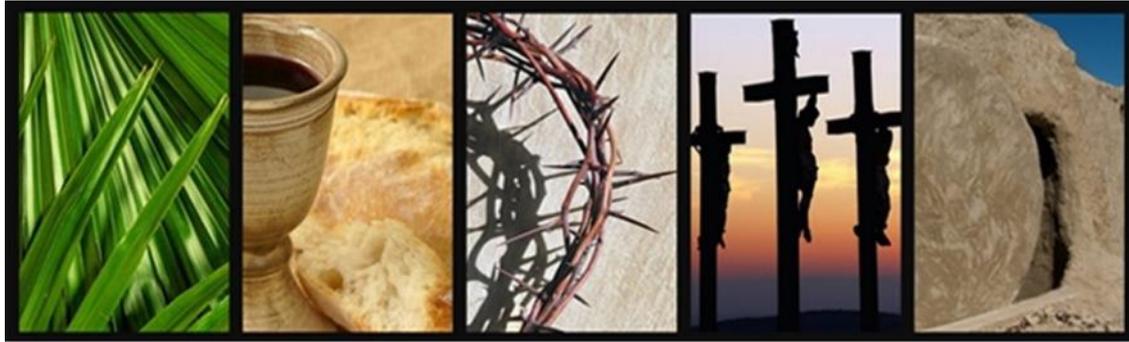
**We pray for** the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers;

**We pray for** our companion dioceses of Torit & Ecuador-Central; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice;

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen & St. Martin, Brooklyn; St. Thomas', Brooklyn; Church of the Redeemer, Astoria; Grace Day School, Massapequa; St. George's, Astoria; Parish Health Ministry Program; All Saints', Bayside;

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer** we pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America; and these Dioceses: Athabasca (Anglican Church of Canada); Athooch (Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan); Atlanta (Episcopal Church); Auckland (Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia); North West Australia (Anglican Church of Australia); Awell (Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

<b>Parish Financial Snapshot for the Weekends of February 28, 2021</b>			
<b>Compared with the Fourth Week in February 2020</b>			
	<b>Total 2021 Annual Budget</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Total Parish Expenses Per Week</b>		<b>\$7,016</b>	<b>\$6,990</b>
<b>Donations Third Week in February</b>		<b>2,451</b>	<b>6,523</b>
<b>Building Use</b>		<b>531</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Sports Rental</b>		<b>1,600</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LPL Transfer</b>		<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,865</b>
<b>Weekly Overage (Deficit)</b>		<b>(762)</b>	<b>1,398</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Deficit</b>		<b>(\$18,485)</b>	<b>(\$17,883)</b>



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2021

AT

ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**PALM SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28**

**LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

**WITH THE HOLY EUCHARIST - 10AM**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 6PM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 1**

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**WITH THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR - 6PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - NOON**

**LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY - 6PM**

**EASTER DAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

**PARISH HOLY EUCHARIST - 10AM**



**BIBLE STUDIES  
THAT WORK**

**Lent 3 (B) March 7, 2021**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

Moses and the Israelites have finally reached Mount Sinai. They've escaped their bondage in Egypt, and now God will lay out the expectations for their covenantal relationship. But before handing down the Decalogue, or the laws as the Israelites would understand them to be, God begins by reminding the people of all that God has done for them and consequently of God's power and mercy. It is important that God, not Moses, delivers this message because God is inviting the people into a new relationship and way of being with God. While Moses has done a sufficient job leading the people, God's choice to speak directly to them reminds them of God's immense power and ensures them that God's presence extends beyond their miraculous exodus and into their continual relationship. Additionally, the Decalogue balances the commandments of a right relationship with God

with commandments that encourage a right relationship with neighbor. God is not merely concerned with how they treat their Lord but also how they care for one another.

- Where have you been reminded of God’s continuing power and presence in your life this week?
- As Christians, our lives too have been altered by God’s mercy and these commandments. How have these commandments affected your relationship with God and your neighbor?

### **Psalm 19**

The Psalmist is in utter awe of the power of God and the perfection of God’s law. The first six verses illustrate God’s vast control over all of creation and the next four verses describe the “perfect,” “clear,” and “true” actions of God that make a relationship with God more desirable than wealth or sweet honey. The Psalmist ends with a plea to God to cleanse, protect, strengthen, and redeem the speaker because the Psalmist knows that nothing is beyond God’s realm or “hidden from its burning heat.” The Psalmist understands that as a human creature, he is not perfect and instead is susceptible to sins, both known and unknown. The Psalmist does not ask for God’s forgiveness, but rather petitions for God to work with the Psalmist so the Psalmist is not overtaken by sins. The Psalmist understands that our faith invites us into an active relationship with God where we are constantly invited to reflect, repent, and grow nearer to God.

- Read the Lent 3 collect. How is our petition similar to that of the Psalmist?
- How is Psalm 19 similar or different from the Book of Common Prayer’s confession?

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

What standards do we use to evaluate humanity? Better yet, what standards do Christians use? The letter to the Corinthians is addressing the problem inherent in these questions by suggesting the apocalyptic reality of Christ’s entrance into humanity completely obliterates all necessity of evaluations. In Paul’s mind, the divisions present in the church at Corinth were unnecessary, superficial, and not the purpose of the cross. Instead, the cross signaled a new world and way of being. This is made clear with the inclusion of the scriptural reference to Isaiah (v.19) that compares the newly formed Christians in Corinth to the people of Judah, who trusted in their own wisdom rather than in God. The use of the rhetorical questions and reversal language invites the Corinthians to recognize their invitation, as Christians, into the new community that challenges their divisions and transforms their understanding of wisdom.

- For the Corinthians, life as a Christian was countercultural. Is this still true today? Why or why not?
- How do our earthly divisions affect our lives as Christians?

### **John 2:13-22**

Speaking of reversal, John’s gospel account depicts Jesus literally flipping a table over. Is he angry, or simply trying to illustrate how divided the people still are? Juxtaposed against the earlier wedding at Cana, a story of unity and abundance, the story of the money changers in the Temple is a reminder that as Christians, our work is continuous and requires active participation. Christ is doing some “spring cleaning” and cleansing the people to prepare them for the new reality coming with his death and resurrection. While the people demand for a “sign,” they really want to see what authority Jesus has to speak and do such things. Unfortunately, the people fail to realize that the “sign” is right in front of them—in the person overturning tables. They are too caught up in their own lives to see the power of God at work.

- Who are you in this story?
- The penitential season of Lent invites us to get ready for the paschal mystery by inwardly examining our own lives and doing some “spring cleaning” of our own. What things do you need to let go of that are hindering your ability to see the power of God in your own life?

*Ansley Walker is a third-year Master of Divinity student at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and Yale Divinity School. She is originally from the Florida Panhandle and is a graduate of the University of Florida. Prior to attending seminary, Ansley worked as the Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries at St. Simon’s on the Sound Episcopal Church in Florida, and taught middle school language arts, high school cheerleading, and children’s dance classes.*

# St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island*

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, DD

The Right Reverend GERALYN WOLF

The Right Reverend Daniel Allotey

The Right Reverend R. William Franklin

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty, DD

Mark Engelhardt

Linda Ruggieri

*Presiding Bishop*

*Diocesan Bishop*

*Assistant Bishop*

*Assisting Bishop*

*Assisting Bishop*

*Bishop-in-Residence*

*Associate for Administration, Liturgy, and Music*

*Financial Administrator*

## The Wardens and Vestry of the Parish

Brian Clark, *Senior Warden*

Joe Goncalves, *Junior Warden*

### **Class of 2021**

Roger Burmeister

Bill Crawford

Clyde Payne

### **Class of 2022**

Stephanie Campbell

Eric Eastman

Lisa Hallett

### **Class of 2023**

Marc Johnston

Bill Kern



**Praising God, Serving Neighbor**

*We seek to worship the Lord as one loving family*

*by serving our parish and community*

*through prayer, music, education, and outreach*