

Come 4th Sunday!

Awesome Communion



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Glenside, Pennsylvania
April 26, 2026
10:00 A.M.

About Come 4th Sunday

At St. Peter's the fourth Sunday of the month is **Come 4th Sunday**. It's a time when we come forth in new ways to celebrate being the Body of Christ.

Children come forth to read Scripture and lead prayer, and to get a better look at what's going on.

Families come forth to take on new roles.

New members come forth for a blessing.

We all come forth to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, and we all go forth as his disciples – with God's help.

The Scripture translations are from the resource *God's Word, my Voice*, by Lyn Zill Briggs, *Church Publishing: 2015*. They are written in a way that is easy for young readers to proclaim and understand.

Our opening prayers are from the supplemental liturgical materials in *Enriching Our Worship 1*.

Our choir will lead us in songs that are simple to sing but full of meaning. When the words aren't written in the leaflet, we use the Blue Hymnal; the thin green *Wonder, Love and Praise Book (WLP)*, or the thin blue *With One Voice (WOV)* hymnal.

And you can even color the front page of the leaflet. Crayons are available in the basket in the narthex. All ages welcome.

Infants, toddlers and their families can hang out in **our soft space on the right side of the worship space**, which welcomes soft toys, soft activities and soft voices. Wiggles are also welcome.

Overall, this is a great opportunity to ask yourself, how can I come forth to serve Jesus in new ways this year?

About Awesome Communion

This month several parish children and their families participated in Bread Day with Rev. Barb to learn more about the great sacrament of the Eucharist that we celebrate every Sunday. They made bread to eat and stoles to wear as ways to remember that Jesus is with us in the bread and wine and in one another. Today they will lead us in Word and prayer and example so that we can all experience an Awesome Communion with Jesus.

Today's service music from the "Mass of Creation" is available on the cards in the pews.

Gathering in Joy

Prelude: Come to Me

W. Kimbrough
Kristina Marchuk and Terita Reeve

Opening Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82)*, #390 Praise to the Lord

The Opening Acclamation

EOW 1

Presider: Alleluia! The Lord is Risen.

People: The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia

The Presider says to the people

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

O God, who brings us into Awesome Communion with you and with one another: Help us to follow Jesus, the bread of life who feeds us and leads us all the way to eternal life. We pray this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [2:42-47]

The friends of Jesus spent their time in teaching and learning from each other, in enjoying each other's company, in sharing bread and wine and worshipping God. Everyone was amazed at the awesome signs and wonders they did. Together they shared everything they owned, so that no one would go without. They simplified their lives by selling the things they owned and then distributed the money in ways that helped other people. Each day, they spent time worshipping God, having Eucharist at home with each other, and eating their meals together. Their hearts were glad and generous and full of God's love. And each day, God added more people to their fellowship.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23

The response to the psalm is: **The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.
I have everything I need.**

The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.

I have everything I need.

He takes me to places where I can rest in peaceful, green pastures, and lie down beside deep, still, soothing waters.

He puts new life back into me, and shows me the right ways to go.

The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.

I have everything I need.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I'm not scared because the Lord is with me. He carries a big stick, and a crook to grab me if I fall down a ravine. That makes me feel a lot better.

The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.

I have everything I need.

When those who make fun of me are watching, he spreads out a feast in front of them. A feast just for me. And he anoints me just as a king would be anointed. My cup is running over. My happiness is complete.

The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.

I have everything I need.

There is nowhere I can go that the Lord's goodness and mercy isn't already there. It's like living in the Lord's house for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.

What more could I need or want?

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter [2:19-25]

There's something special about you when you're able to keep your chin up for God's sake as people make fun of you. If you're doing the right thing, it's not always popular, but it's always the right thing to do and you know it. Jesus knew what that was like. He was always being chased and mocked by people for telling them about God and God's ways. When people were abusing him, he didn't return the abuse. He simply let God deal with them. It wasn't easy for him. And it won't be easy for you, either. When he died on the cross, he was hoping that we would be free from the power our sin holds over us and live in an entirely different way. We have been healed by Jesus' wounds. Once, we were going

in the wrong direction like sheep who have lost their way. But now, we have returned to the shepherd who watches out for our souls.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Hymn: *Wonder, Love and Praise (WLP)*, #811 Be Not Afraid

The Gospel – John [10:1-10]

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus talked to them about sheep and shepherds. He said that the sheep know the shepherd's voice and won't follow a stranger whose voice they don't know. The shepherd comes through the gate into the place the sheep are kept, the sheepfold. People who try to get into the sheepfold by hopping over the fence are thieves.

When Jesus said all this, the disciples had no idea what he was talking about. So Jesus explained it to them. He said, "I am the gate for the sheep. Others who have come were thieves and the sheep didn't know their voices so they didn't listen to them. They wanted to steal and destroy the sheep. But whoever comes through me will find good pasture. I have come so that you all may have life, a better life than you could ever imagine."

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Ballenger

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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 (*Led by the Awesome Communion Participants*)

The response to *Lord in your mercy* is **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrating Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: It Is Good to Give Thanks

W. Kimbrough

Presentation Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82)*, # 645 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The Great Thanksgiving, New Zealand Prayer Book

Presider: The Lord is here.

People: **God's Spirit is with us.**

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 offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit, we can all be your people.

And so with thanks we praise you singing:

Sanctus-Holy, Holy: *Mass of Creation* (see card in pew)

Presider: We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said, "Do this, and know that I am with you."

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you."

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him.

Presider: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ Has Died: *Mass of Creation* (see card in pew)

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people.

Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

Doxology & AMEN: *Mass of Creation* (see card in pew)

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Jesus Lamb of God: *Mass of Creation* (see card in pew)

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion of the People

Communion Music: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82), #335 I Am The Bread of Life*

Be Patient

an original composition by Bob Filice

Song after Communion: **Jesus Took the Bread**

By Rev. Barb

Led by Rev. Barb and the Awesome Communion participants

Jesus took the bread, and this is what he said: Remember me, remember me.

Then he took the cup, and he held it up: Remember me, remember me.

And when we eat this food, his body and his blood, in his memory, in his memory,

We become like Jesus, our brother who frees us to set others free, to set others free.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Out

The Blessing

Litany of Welcome

Priest Dear people of God, I invite your prayers for the saving
presence of Jesus in this world,

***Assembly* Christ is risen!**

Priest In this Church,

***Assembly* Christ is risen!**

Priest In this community,

***Assembly* Christ is risen!**

Priest In the hearts of all faithful people,

***Assembly* Christ is risen!**

Priest We pray especially today in thanksgiving as we welcome the **Upton-Narozny family (Julie, Ron, Eve, Elle and Kelle)** into the body of Christ in this place.

Priest Do you desire to join St. Peter's Church?

***New Members* I (we) do.**

Assembly We welcome you with open hearts.
Priest We welcome you and pledge to be a community for you.
Assembly We offer you our gifts, our care and concern, our hope and our faith, our brokenness and frailty.
Priest We welcome you, trusting in Christ because we know our imperfections all too well.
Assembly We will rejoice together, mourn together, learn together, grow together, take risks together, make mistakes together and forgive one another.
Priest We welcome the gifts and needs that you bring, and rejoice that you make us stronger and more complete in Christ.
Assembly Thanks be to God!
Priest We welcome you knowing that you will change who we are.
Assembly Thanks be to God.
Priest May God bless our new life together, and lead us in new pathways, in the hallowed name of God, we pray.
Assembly AMEN.

Eucharistic Visitor (*occasional*)

Presider: In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's we send you forth bearing the gift of Holy Communion to...

All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread and one cup.
When your birthday or anniversary is announced, please stand in your place and remain standing as we pray.

Birthdays:

Janice Solla 04/26
Oak Neske 05/01
Bill Stevers 05/02

Anniversaries:

Ernest & Robin Dixon 04/28
John & Carole Sweeney 04/28
Stephanie & Bruce Fabijonas 05/01

Birthday & Anniversary Prayer

BCP 830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements:

- Join parishioner John Olson for a forum following morning worship that will discuss the importance of ecosystems.
- Soup is available for freewill offering following morning worship.
- Please prayer for our confirmation students, as they will be being confirmed by the bishop next Sunday, May 10 at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Whitemarsh. There will be a visiting clergy leading morning worship at St. Peter's.
- Community Partnerships will collect infant and toddler clothes until Layette Sunday on May 10, when Rev. Barb will bless the donated items. Please place your items in the donation bin located on the ramp near chapel.
- Please see the newsletter to RSVP for the Sedar Meal.
- Our annual welcome luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, May 17. More details to come.
- Scan the QR code below to access the recent newsletter.



The Closing Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82)*, #470 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Deacon: *The Rev. Bob Smith*

Acolytes: *Alyssa Clemens, Sophia Kelly, Alex Stevers-Radtke*

Lectors: *Anne Burke, Leo Donovan, Bekah Burke*

Intercessors: *Awesome Communion Participants*

Eucharistic Minister: *Melissa Olson, Amy Michener-Wall*

Ushers: *Bill Bacon, Amy Huang, John Olson, Maureen Schaeffer*

Counter: *Jeanne Robson*

Vestry Steward: *Mark Evans*

Altar Guild: *Wendy Hartung*

Welcomer: *Marsha Blake*

Folk Group Leadership Team:

Terita Reeve, Kristina Marchuk, Debbie DeKalb and Donna Kulp

Tech Team: *Mike Levin, PJ Linke, James Moore*

Awesome Communion Participants

Polly Burke
Anne Burke
Bekah Burke
Leo Donovan
Skyla Lam
Elysia Lam

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All Songs

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