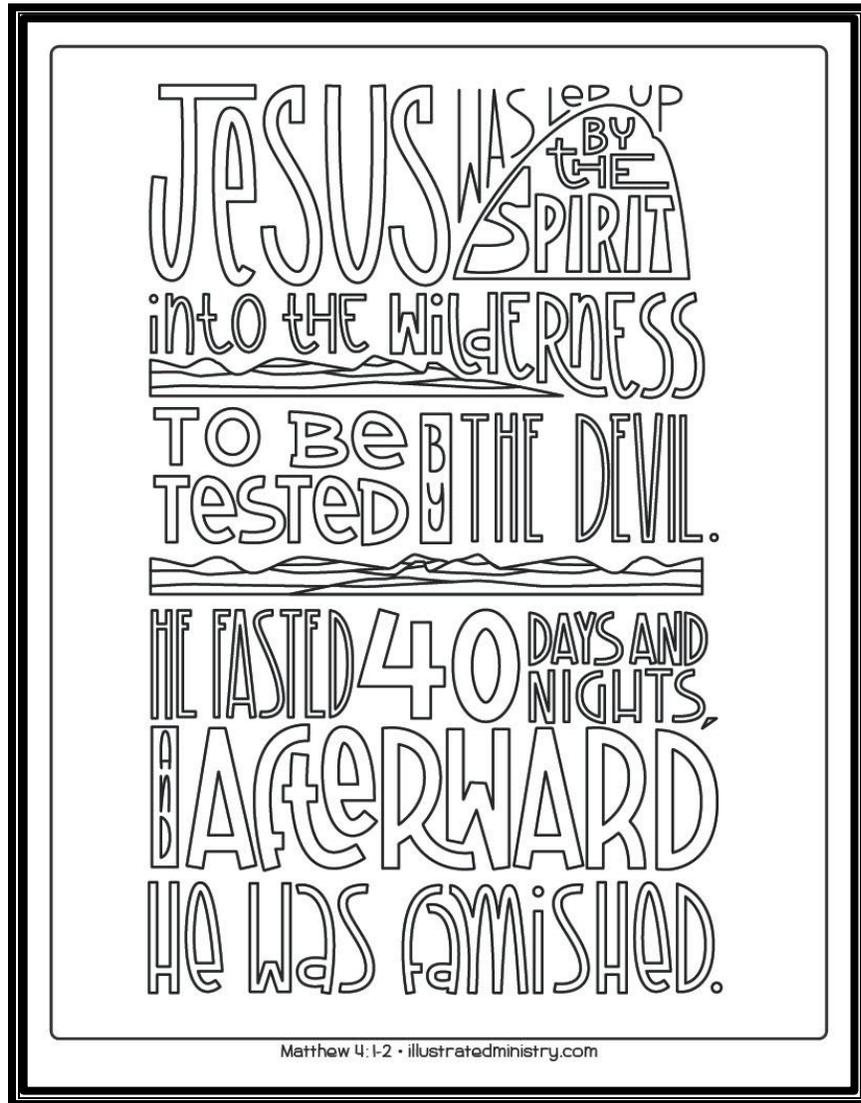


Come 4th Sunday!



The First Sunday of Lent
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Glenside, Pennsylvania
February 22, 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?

Gathering in Joy

Prelude: Pange Lingua

Performed by Debbie Panebianco

Opening Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982*, #143 **Glory of These Forty Days**

The Opening Acclamation

EOW 1

Presider: Blessed be our God

People: **For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Presider says to the people

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Dear God, whose Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert to be tempted, come to our aid when we wrestle with staying on your way. You know our weaknesses; help us to trust your saving strength, through your son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Listening for God's Word

A Reading from the Book of Genesis [2:15-17;3:1-7]

God took the man he made and put him in the Garden of Eden to take care of it. God told him, "Go ahead and eat anything you want from the garden, but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because you'll die if you eat that."

The serpent was the wisest and sneakiest wild animal that God made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say you can't eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" "No, that's not what God said," said the woman. "God said we can eat from any tree except the one in the middle, and we shouldn't even touch it or we'll die." The serpent said, "You won't die if you eat it. God knows that if you eat fruit from that tree, all of a sudden you will be like God, and know right from wrong, good from evil."

The woman looked at that tree, and thought the fruit on it looked pretty good to eat. Then she really wanted it, especially if it was going to make her wise like God. So she took a piece and ate. Then she gave some of it to her husband as well. And he ate it. Sure enough, it was like their eyes were opened and they saw things they'd never seen before. They hadn't realized it earlier, but now they saw that they didn't have any clothes on. So they took some fig leaves and sewed them together to make some clothes for themselves.

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

Psalm 32

The Response is: God, you are the place I can hide. You keep me safe from trouble.

People whose sins are forgiven are happy people. When the Lord says, "You're not guilty of anything," you're a happy person, too. You can be happy there's nothing in you that wants to cause any trouble. For a while I was quiet about my sin, and I felt like I was wasting away, and I groaned all day long.

**God, you are the place I can hide.
You keep me safe from trouble.**

I felt like God's heavy hand was on me day and night. My mouth was all dried up like it was the middle of summer. I was so thirsty. But then, I told God about my sin, and didn't hide anything from him.

**God, you are the place I can hide.
You keep me safe from trouble.**

I said, "I'm going to come clean to God about what bad things I've done."
And God forgave me and my guilty feelings went away. People who love God should tell God when they've caused trouble for themselves, then when the times get worse, they won't feel like the floodwaters will cover them up.

**God, you are the place I can hide.
You keep me safe from trouble.**

And I can hear you calling for me to find me and help me out of tough spots.
God says, "I will teach you how you should act, and show you the way. I've got a really good eye, and I will use it to guide you." So, don't be like a horse or a mule—they don't know what's going on. They have to be fitted with a bridle or else they'll just wander away.

**God, you are the place I can hide.
You keep me safe from trouble.**

People who don't want to go God's way will always find themselves in trouble.
But if you love God and trust in God, God will hug you in his loving arms.
You've got lots to be happy about, and you can be happy about God.
Shout for joy, those of you who have given your hearts to God.

**God, you are the place I can hide.
You keep me safe from trouble.**

The Epistle - A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [5:12-19]

From the very first person on earth, we all have been separated from God. Not because of what God did, but because humans, all humans, constantly put up a barrier between themselves and God. Our sin keeps that barrier up. And then we die. But just as everyone is sinful, everyone has been given God's grace through Jesus Christ! Everyone! We can either focus on how we're all sinful, or how through Jesus we all have God's forgiveness and salvation.

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

Gospel Hymn: *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, #29 Near the Cross

The Gospel – *Matthew* [4:1-11]

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

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit took him into the desert where he faced a lot of temptations. He stopped eating for a really long time to get a clearer picture of what God wanted him to do with his life. Afterwards, he was really, really hungry. The one who tempts us came to Jesus and said, “So, if you're really the Son of God, why don't you just turn these rocks into bread? What are you waiting for?”

Jesus answered him, “That's not what God's power is all about. Don't you know that the Bible says, ‘Bread isn't everything; God's Word is everything’”? Then the devil took him to the holy city and flew him up to the very tip of the temple. He said, “So, if you are the son of God, jump off, because the Bible said, ‘God will make sure his angels take care of you. They'll lift you up so you won't even hurt one foot on a stone below.’” Jesus said to him, “But the Bible also says, ‘Don't test God.’” Then the devil tried a third time.

He took him to the peak of the high mountain where he could see the whole beautiful world and everyone in it. The devil said, “You can have all this, if you will just fall on your knees and worship me instead of God.”

Jesus told him to just go away. Because Jesus knew the Bible, he said, “You're only supposed to worship God and only follow him.”

With that, the devil gave up and went away. And then Jesus was surrounded by messengers straight from God who came and took care of everything he needed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **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

Reader: Our response is: Help us to love with your love.

Dear Lord, hear our prayer. We pray for people everywhere:
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for our community, country and world.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for all who gather as your Church.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for the earth and all your good gifts.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for all who are suffering from storms, floods, and fires.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for those who are sick or lonely, and need kindness and care.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for those who need your saving grace.
All: Help us to love with your love.

We pray for the needs deep within our hearts.
We pray for all who have died and all who miss them.

Dear Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And bless your people everywhere.

Confession of Sin

EOW 1

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
We confess that we have sinned against you,
Opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied the goodness in each other,
In ourselves and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
The evil we have done,
And the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore and strengthen us
Through our Savior Jesus Christ,
That we may abide in your love
And serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Celebrating Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: Eternal Weight of Glory

Wendell Kimbrough

Presentation Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982, #662 Abide With Me*

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, Holy

Mass of Creation (see pew card)

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, and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation: Christ Has Died

Mass of Creation (see pew card)

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 pew card)

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God

Mass of Creation (see pew card)

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

The Communion of the People

Communion Music: Lenten Meditation (Jay Althouse) Performed by Debbie DeKalb, Kristina Marchuk, Terita Reeve, accompanied by Kathy Flaherty

God Within (original composition by Bob Felice)

The Post-Communion Prayer

Presider and people together

**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 Carol Guy 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 Commissioning (*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:

Michael Levin 02/22

Max Clemens 02/25

Laurel Mosteller 02/28

Anniversaries:

None this week.

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:

- Following morning worship, Mike Levin will be taking pictures of parishioners to update our photo board in the hallway. Please gather in the middle of the sanctuary by the

baptismal font after the service if you are interested. Newly welcomed members are especially encouraged to take a photo.

- Soup and ready-made meals will be available during fellowship for free will donation.
- Girl Scout cookies will be available for purchase at \$6 a box following morning worship in the parish hall.
- A reminder that today's confirmation class will meet in the back of the church at 11:45a.m.
- Scan the QR code to see the full Lenten schedule.



The Closing Hymn: *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, #184 **Blessed Assurance**

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Worship Ministers

Presider and Preacher: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Deacon: *The Rev. Bob Smith*

Acolyte: *Alyssa Clemens, Eamon Ivory, Teresa Mignogno*

Lectors: *Lana Fabijonas, Olivia McCrea, Alistair McCrea*

Intercessor: *Henry Bennecoff*

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

Ushers: *Bill Bacon, John Olson, Keirstin Sibley, Jack Wilbur*

Altar Guild: *Wendy Hartung*

Counter: *Jeanne Robson*

Welcomer: *Velma Supperer*

Vestry Steward: *Beth Carlin*

Bell Ringer: *Bill Bacon*

Music Director: *Sam Faust*

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

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The Glory of These Forty Days, Words: Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), Music: Erhalt uns, Herr, Melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1543.

*Near the Cross, Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915); Music: William H. Doane (1832-1915).
Eternal Weight of Glory, Words and Music by Wendell Kimbrough, used with special permission
by the composer.*

*Abide With Me, Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); Music: Eventide, William Henry Monk
(1823-1889).*

*Lenten Meditation, Words and Music by Jay Althouse, 2001 by Hope Publishing Company,
Carol Stream, IL.*

God Within, original composition by Bob Felice.

*Blessed Assurance, Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915); Music: Phoebe P. Knapp (1938-
1908).*

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