

The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Home Church Connections  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Nourishing Faith and Community

## Words of Welcome

### The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God,

**to you all hearts are open all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Collect

Let us pray,

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the love of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Proclamation of the Word

#### Reading One: Acts 9:36-43

A reading from the book of Acts

*Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near*

*Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (audio version)

Reading Two: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the book of Revelation

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,*

*'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'*

*And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,*

*'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom*

*and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'*

*Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'*

*For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.*

*They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;*

*for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us*

*plainly. ' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one. '*

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

Prayers of the People

This past week marked a new remembrance and old remembrance and so we include two prayers of the people specific to this week.

Red Dress Day is held every year on May 5th in Canada. It is a national day of remembrance for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited People (MMIWG2S+). To honor those who have been lost, we hang red dresses in trees, on front porches or in windows or wear red dress pins.

Before God we remember.

We remember those Missing and Murdered Women and Girls and Two Spirited People who suffered. We take time to remember they are Our Relations, as all creation is related. We remember their family members and friends and the heaviness of loss and grief that they have carried for so many years. Creator, in Jesus, you showed us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect, care for one another and commit ourselves to providing safety for all. May we grow in your

spirit, and support all our relations, for you are God, now and forever. **Amen.**

May 8th, 1945, marked the end of five years and eight months of conflict in Europe, part of the most brutal and bloody war in human history.

The unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany saw the end of a legacy of unimaginable suffering - millions of soldiers and civilians killed, cities laid waste and the mass extermination of 6 million Jews, condemned under Adolf Hitler's "final solution".

In Canada over one million served - one in every eleven citizens. Tragically 44,090 would never return home. Another 55,000 would come home maimed by wounds and an untold number would also bear deep emotional scars until the day they died.

Canada entered into a new era after May 8th, 1945. Happiness returned to the nation but it is a happiness forever tinged with pain and sadness etched by the memories of faraway places called the North Atlantic Run, Normandy, Dieppe, the Ruhr Valley or Ortona.

Let us pray,

Almighty God from whom true peace comes, open our minds and hearts to a true love of peace. Guide those who are in authority to listen well to your wisdom, to work only for justice and charity, which is the only true path to peace in the world. May your kingdom come so that the earth will be filled with your knowledge and your love and your peace. **Amen.**

Our prayers of the people continue...

Prayers for Gifts Offered

Let us pray,

God of loving care, without you we can do nothing. Keep us always

in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our shepherd.  
**Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### Passing the Peace

During this Easter Season we stand in front of the empty tomb  
forgiven and free.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

#### Doxology

**Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely  
more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from  
generation to generation, In the Church and in Christ Jesus for  
ever and ever. Amen.**

#### The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the  
source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the  
world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you, surround you and

remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Dismissal:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

**In the Worldwide Anglican Communion**, we pray for The Church of the Province of West Africa; for our discernment in choosing a Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Fredericton, Bishop David Edwards.

**In our diocese**, we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee.

**In our region**, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Pastor Lyle McKenzie and Pastor Lyndon Sayers.

**In our parish** we pray for: Lynn Scott; Andrew Sebo; Pat Seidlitz; Jean Smith; Rosemary Smith; Roland Stacey; Nathaniel Sukhdeo and Ann Desgagne and Eloise; Lawrence Surges and Hilary Mackey.

**In our community** we pray for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

**For the month of May**, we give thanks for those who contribute so generously in time and energy to our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, who are the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.





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