

Gloria
in the
Cross



ST. PETER'S
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL
2023

ST. PETER'S 2023 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

PREFACE

GLORY IN THE CROSS

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

—Galatians 6:14

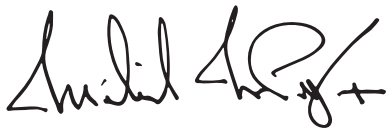
We all have something we boast about, something or someone we take pride in. We may take pride in a particular school, a particular city or town, a vocation, an accomplishment, a child, or a particular group of people. On the whole, this boasting does no harm and may even accomplish some good (when something is a source of pride, we tend to be dedicated to it and are willing to expend effort for it).

The things we take pride in (in which we boast) can also tell us something about ourselves. This is one of the points which Paul raises in his letter to the Galatians. The things or people we take pride in can shape our sense of identity and significance. We can all too easily identify ourselves in terms of a school we attended, a political party we support, a band we enjoy, or the family to which we belong. One of the challenges of Lent is that of becoming clear on who and what shapes our identity.

In *Galatians 6:4*, Paul sets a challenge for us. He says, *“If you are going take pride in something, you should take pride in the cross of Christ because doing this will clarify many things.”* In his translation of the New Testament, N.T. Wright renders *Galatians 6:14* like this: *“As for me, God forbid that I should boast—except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.”* Our primary source of pride for Paul should be the cross of Christ and what God has accomplished through it.

As Paul also makes clear, our sense of the cross will depend on our sense of our need for God's grace and the depth of our sin: *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ”* (*Ephesians 2:5, 6*). Lent is an opportunity to rediscover the depth of our sins and the gift of God's grace. The most important thing we can say about ourselves is that God, in his mercy, delivered us from the living death of our trespasses and made us alive together with Christ.

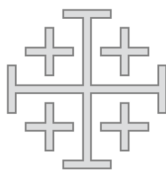
In the liturgy for Good Friday, Anthem 1 begins with these words: “WE GLORY IN YOUR CROSS, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection for by your Cross joy has come to the whole world (*Book of Common Prayer, 2019, p. 574*). The purpose of the self-examination and self-denial of Lent is to bring us anew to this joyful affirmation.



Fr. Michael W. Petty

Canon for Discipleship | Director of the Charles Simeon Institute

ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL



ST. PETER'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Barbara Mattick, Executive Editor

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*All scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV)
unless noted otherwise.*

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2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

We are ambassadors, those who represent one of higher stature. We have been appointed ambassadors/representatives of none other than the Lord of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ. Indeed, God could have chosen a better class of beings to represent His only begotten son, perhaps cherubim, seraphim, an angel, or an archangel. But no. He chose us, a band of sinners, to be the Lord's ambassadors. He has chosen us to make His appeal/demonstrate His love to a lost world. As impossible as it seems, God has given us the incredible responsibility and privilege of telling others about Jesus and helping others grow close to Him. Although we are imperfect, Jesus, who is perfect, gave His life for us and poured His righteousness into us so that we may tell others of His love for them also.

LIVING OUT LENT

May we be ever grateful that God has saved, called, commissioned, and equipped us to share the Gospel of Jesus with those who do not know Him. He reminds us that time is of the essence. Now is the time to do His work. Now is the day of salvation..

Stan Mattick and his wife, Barbara, have been members of St. Peter's since September 2011. He loves the beautiful music of the Church and the Gospel being preached without compromise. Stan enjoys planning trips to see God's creation's wonders and maintaining relationships with family and long-time Christian friends.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Luke 9:22-25

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS

In this passage, Jesus tells the disciples to each deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Him. Taking up one's cross can have several meanings. It can be interpreted as acknowledging our weaknesses and overcoming our sinful nature. Or it can mean that we need to rely on God to resist our self-centeredness so that God's priorities become our own. Another is that we must commit our lives wholeheartedly to Jesus, accepting any hardships this cross might bring. These are all trustworthy, but I want to focus on a theme that seems especially timely today. How can we stand up for God's Word in this increasingly divisive culture without being judgmental and creating even more discord? We are constantly faced with social pressure to accept behaviors we disagree with for fear of offending others. How do we stand up for Christ's teachings in a loving way? How do we gently remind others that they might be going down the wrong path? God repeatedly sent prophets to Israel to warn them about the consequences of their behaviors. How can we do this without being judgmental?

How can you stand up for God without being angry and divisive? Here are several suggestions. Always try to "do unto others;" think about how you would want someone to speak with you about an issue. Rather than judge, offer an invitation; "I'm going to a right-to-life prayer vigil tomorrow. Would you like to go with me?" Show concern; rather than commenting that someone has not been in church regularly, ask them if everything is ok in their life. Walk in their shoes: "I understand you're supporting this cause; tell me more about your experience with that."

LIVING OUT LENT

Always focus on the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The best way to stand up for God is to model Christ's teachings.

Frances Prevatt is married to Bruce. She is semi-retired from FSU and enjoys having more time as a grandmother and volunteer at St. Peter's.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Matthew 9:14-15

TRUE AND FALSE FASTING

This question posed to Jesus about His disciple's lack of fasting is on the heels of the question posed to the disciples about Jesus eating with tax collectors in v 11. In typical fashion, Jesus replies with an intentionality that would have been hard to overlook by the pious and astute Jew. In His disciples' defense, the Lord applies the metaphor used by John the Baptist, referring to himself as the best man and Jesus as the groom. The guests (i.e., the disciples) are so delighted to be in His presence that they see no need to fast, a practice taken up to display mourning, repentance, or a sense of closeness to God. The bridegroom analogy was also often applied to God in the Old Testament (Isa 54:5 & Hosea 2:16, 19) and is significant because Jesus essentially stated that He is the messianic bridegroom ushering in the messianic age.

Finally, in the Old Testament, the high priest had the privilege of ministering in the literal and physical presence of the God of Israel. God prohibited him from mourning outwardly. This is because when confronted with the Creator's glory, it is at once a realization that there is none more significant and for whom nothing is impossible. Jesus is thereby implying that He is the God of Israel.

LIVING OUT LENT

Fasting is an essential spiritual discipline. However, we must remember that we do not fast to curry favor with God or to get His attention. As His children, we already have it. In times of uncertainty or hardship, I remind myself that as I ask for the Lord's will in a given situation, His presence will set things right, no matter the outcome as it pertains to myself. This assurance drives away fear and provides peace, knowing that the Creator of the universe can be trusted to handle the details and any uncertainties in my life.

Rohan, his wife Elizabeth Medley, and their children Zachary and Zoë have been attending St. Peter's since the summer of 2021 and have made it their church home.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Luke 5:27-32

JESUS CALLS LEVI

This passage reminds me of all the places we don't go and the things we don't say for our fear of the world's response. We're not called to recklessness, but there are times when our hesitation causes us to miss opportunities for the Lord. Am I willing to leave everything for Christ? Levi (aka Matthew), a man with a tax booth, a position in the day's culture, and a home capable of providing a great feast for a large company, is asked to follow Christ. And in response, "leaving everything, he rose and followed him"

It is easy to confuse who we are with our temporary place in the world. Our status can become what we know and the comfort we cling to. But Christ reminds us that we must let go of the things of the world. This doesn't always mean getting up and walking away from a job—though sometimes it might. It does always mean ending our spiritual dependence on the hollow things of the world. It does mean dropping our inadequate worldly crutches and turning fully to Christ.

Here we also find Pharisees who think Christ and the church should be reserved for the well-mannered and neatly groomed. Christ sits at the feast with tax collectors and sinners. And thank God for that! We look around the table and see a group of broken sinners. Christ powerfully confirms that He is for all those who are sick. And it is another reminder of what it means to follow Him. We must go where He calls us. And sometimes, that will take us out of our comfort zone—perhaps to a new table of sinners that need to hear His word.

LIVING OUT LENT:

What is the Lord asking me to set down and leave behind so I might follow Him more fully?

Bobby Long, his wife Jenna, and their four sons are all active with St. Peter's ministries, serving with Children's Chapel, adult formation, acolytes, choir, engage groups, and other children and youth programs.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 26

Matthew 4:1-11

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Jesus starts His ministry after His baptism and temptation. The scripture in Matthew 4 describes how the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. God Himself does not test Jesus but allows Jesus to be tested by the devil. The scripture says of Jesus, “he was hungry” after fasting for 40 days and nights. Jesus’ hunger reminds us of His humanity. He can likewise have compassion for our sufferings. The devil tests Jesus when He is most vulnerable. The devil challenges Jesus to create bread out of stones and offers Jesus the world’s kingdoms if He worships him. Jesus refuses to be tricked into using His divine powers and authority to make the situation easy on Himself or to thwart God’s plan for our salvation. Jesus instead quotes scripture as a response to each temptation. Eventually, the devil gives up and leaves.

As Christians, we expect to be tested. God is sovereign over all things, including our trials. We may be tested by the devil or by the many circumstances of life. We may encounter physical and emotional hurts, disappointments, loneliness, and poverty, to name a few. When weak and vulnerable, we are more prone to sin or step out of God’s plan for us. How can we prepare for the tough times? We prepare by reading and studying God’s word, praying, and worshiping. When the trials come, ideally, as Jesus did, we will turn to scripture for hope and assurance to give us strength to endure the trials successfully.

LIVING OUT LENT

I often recite the following found in the Book of Common Prayer, “I promise to submit myself to all that you [Holy Spirit] desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me” (Occasional Prayers #91). Let us be prepared and count it all joy when we are tested.

Vicki Nichols has lived in Tallahassee for almost 35 years. She is retired and enjoys life with her family and friends, including three grandchildren. She became a member of St. Peter’s in May 2021.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18

BE HOLY

In Leviticus 19, God said to all the congregation of Israel, “You (each) shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” What does it mean to be “holy to the Lord”? This is a very personal exhortation. Each of us is to achieve personal holiness according to God’s standards and proclamation.

God focused our attention on the second leg of the Great Commandment, “and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This command was not a suggestion. It was given before the New Covenant, so it was more challenging for the Hebrews than it is for us. We do not appear to be doing a great job of keeping it, primarily because God gives us His holiness as the model.

Do not steal; do not deal falsely; do not lie to one another; do not oppress your neighbor or do any injustice; do not defer to the great, slander your neighbor, hate your neighbor, take vengeance, or bear a grudge; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself says the Lord. God wants His children to love each other as He loves us. My neighbor’s need is my opportunity, and I will exhaust every resource to meet it, and to God be the glory.

LIVING OUT LENT

The Lenten season provides an excellent opportunity to begin the systematic habit of responding to every opportunity to love our fellow believers as well as God, always does. He is our standard. He will ensure that no good deed benefiting your neighbor goes unrewarded in this life and the next.

Fred Thomson is part of the teaching faculty of the Adult Formation Committee.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Matthew 6:7-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

When Jesus teaches the right way to pray during the Sermon on the Mount, it's not merely a memorization exercise. Instead, it's a stark contrast between the public displays by the religious leaders of the day and a far more personal, intimate relationship. To me, Jesus' approach and attitude are essentially less "how" and more "why." The Pharisees appeared holy according to their religious rules and laws. Rather than use big words seeking to impress others, Jesus walks us through a sincere yet straightforward "recipe" consisting of praising our Father, asking that His perfect purpose will be accomplished, trusting that He'll provide for our needs, and calling on Him to pardon all sinners and to protect us from temptation.

Most of us memorized the Lord's Prayer early in our Christian development. We say it aloud together every Sunday as part of our liturgy. But I encourage you to spend a few minutes each day, behind closed doors, speaking solely to an audience of one: the always-loving and always-listening God our Father. There, you will sense the closeness of this personal communication and comfort in knowing you're following the same pattern that Jesus gave His disciples to model their prayers.

LIVING OUT LENT

Throughout Lent, aim to be still and solemn and pray privately with the Lord. He already knows exactly what is needed.

Freddy Branham is the Under-Resourced Core Captain on the Missions & Evangelism team and a Men of St. Peter's leadership council member. He and his wife, Mary Linzee, are members of the Cathedral, where they worship alongside their two young sons, Will and Ford.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Jonah 3:1-10

REPENT & BE FORGIVEN

I used to think Jonah was a wimp. Why wouldn't he go to Nineveh as God told him to? But then I heard Dr. Sarah Lebhar Hall compare the Assyrians to ISIS. Nineveh was a major city in the Assyrian empire. The Assyrians are remembered for their impressive army, architecture, literature, and visual art, but they were cruel toward the people they conquered. Reading Jonah 3, we might wonder if Jonah would have preferred fire to rain down from heaven and destroy the Assyrians than to go to Nineveh. And then a miracle happens - the Ninevites repent. They respond to Jonah's message with a communal fast. Clothed in sackcloth and sitting in the dust symbolizes their mortality and submission to God. And then God spares the Ninevites in His infinite mercy and compassion.

Strongholds are deeply ingrained patterns of thinking about ourselves and others that obstruct our view of God's plan for people. When we are wounded, bitterness and anger can grow inside our hearts, and like Jonah, we might respond to God's call by running away. But as we see in this story, God cares for all humanity and desires that none be destroyed, for all are made in His image. To break a spiritual stronghold, you need to confess to God, a faithful friend, or intercessor the thoughts holding you captive.

LIVING OUT LENT

Let us pray...

Father, I renounce this habit of (name it). I cut all ties with the enemy. Cleanse me with your living water. I affirm that I am fearfully and wonderfully made and your precious child, made in your image. Clothe me with your truth, O Lord. May I find my identity in you and you alone. Amen

Catherine Miller is a mother of three creative boys: Isaac (9), George (6), and Timmy (3), and she loves playing piano, singing, and songwriting with her husband, Henry. She just completed a Master of Worship Studies from the Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Matthew 7:7-12

ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN

Jesus gives us instructions to ask, seek, and knock. Scripture says, “everyone who asks shall receive, those who seek shall find, and for all who knock, the door will be opened to them.” While this appears to be straightforward, do you recall when prayers have seemed ineffective, or you were impatient while waiting? We may even see God as an Amazon fulfillment center where we place an order and expect delivery within days.

“Asking” is more than making a request. God desires a relationship with His people. We know God’s plans for our lives through our relationship with God. In our relationship with God, we find peace and strength in waiting. In seeking God, we can trust that when there is a “no,” God knows what is best. The scripture asks, “if a son asks for bread, will you give him a stone?” If we, having a sinful nature, would only give the best gift we can afford, how much more does our Heavenly Father want to pour out His great blessings upon us? We serve a generous God who desires to bless His people, but we, too, have a part. For those who knock, the door is opened. We are assured that God does not abandon us in our requests. God does not ignore us in our seeking. God does not turn a deaf ear to our knocking.

LIVING OUT LENT

This Lenten season is a great time to reflect on our prayer life and assess our relationship with God. Do we have a “fulfillment center” expectation? Are we seeking fellowship with God or only the fulfillment of our wants? Are we knocking to enter into His presence? As I observe Lent, I aim to be in a relationship with God first and foremost and to seek and open the door to enter His presence.

Adriene B. Wright is a business consultant. She is a postulant for ordination and has been with St. Peter’s for over six years.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Matthew 5:20-26

SUBMIT YOUR ANGER TO CHRIST

Matthew's Gospel (chapters 5, 6, & 7) includes a variety of subjects that Jesus taught His followers. Powerful in his scope and essence, Matthew observes that the crowds were amazed at Jesus' teaching. Jesus masterfully sets the bar so high that if not adequately understood, salvation looks to be impossible. After all, whose righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees? How can anger toward my fellow man be equated with murder? How does judging a fool to be a fool destine me for hell? Why would I pause from giving a gift to the Lord to go and make things right with my brother? And seldom do we consider ourselves debtors, nor do we fear being sentenced to debtors' prison because of our inability to pay back what we owe.

Jesus disturbs their (and our own) smug notions of what it means to be righteous. These decrees defy practical resolution; they are frustratingly impossible. Do they share a common theme? Indeed, they do, one that is core to Christ's ministry. We remain at odds with the Father and one another, and reconciliation is the only fix. We need help with this catastrophe. The solemn season of Lent powerfully reminds us of our estate.

LIVING OUT LENT

God invites us to yield our will to the Holy Spirit, who testifies that the impossible has been accomplished. Christ reconciled us to God and our fellow man (2 Cor. 5.17-21).

Thanks be to God! The crowds were amazed, and so ought we to be, not just during this Lenten season but every day hereafter.

Thomas McHaffie and his spouse Jacqueline are FSU graduates and have lived in Tallahassee for 41 years. They have three children who have blessed them with nine grands.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Matthew 5:43-48

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Common wisdom, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy is natural and easy. We are drawn to those whom we know wish us well. We avoid those who seek to harm or diminish us. But when we separate ‘neighbor’ from ‘enemy,’ we pass judgment on those whom God loves. The Lord told Samuel that “the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Can we know the hearts of our ‘enemies’ as God does?

We are tempted to think that God’s blessings to us in this life are deserved. Worse, we may believe that our judgment has the power to inhibit Him from blessing our adversaries. Who are we to think that? But God sustains His whole creation, not just our neighbors. Not only does He love us, but He loves our enemies. He calls us to do the same and, in so doing, be entirely unlike the world.

Paul reminds us in Romans 5 that “while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.” When we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, we mirror God’s relentless pursuit of us. We, too, were once His enemies.

LIVING OUT LENT

After listening to my exasperated lament about a problematic relationship, a friend gently reminded me that the Lord’s call on me is not to despise them. Challenging indeed, but my only choice is to obey Christ’s command. Most of us can identify people in our spheres of influence that we are tempted to despise. Can we learn to see them as our Lord does, as someone sustained by His blessing and as someone He may be saving?

Scott Marshall is married to Diane and the father of two adult children, Nic and Julia. He enjoys travel, cooking, and reading. He works at the FSU Magnet Lab with a team of magnet makers.

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 5

Matthew 17:1-9

DON'T BE AFRAID

In the Transfiguration story, we see a foretaste of Jesus' glorified body, confirmation of the resurrection of the dead in the persons of Moses and Elijah, the glory cloud of God surrounding the disciples, and the very voice of God telling them to listen to Jesus. At this, the disciples fall on their faces, terrified. Then Jesus tells them, "Don't be afraid." We see this phrase repeated over and over in the Bible. God says it to Joshua; Gabriel says it to Mary; Jesus says it to His disciples. Why are people so afraid?

Fear first shows up in Genesis 3, right after Adam and Eve disobey God. They hide from God. Like Adam and Eve, we hide, afraid that our shame and sin will be exposed to judgment. We are so scared that God will reject us and keep us from entering His kingdom. Our core fear is that we will be unloved, unwanted, and unwelcome. We become afraid of making mistakes, angering others, or failing. We become so scared that God will not take care of us. If we place ourselves in the Transfiguration story, we hear God command us to listen to Jesus, telling us, "Don't be afraid."

LIVING OUT LENT

What would it look like to get up from where you are hiding? Ask God to show you. Don't be afraid. Jesus loves you, He wants you, and He welcomes you.

Henry Miller loves playing Nerf battles and digging holes in the backyard with his three rambunctious boys: Isaac, George, and Timmy. A poet at heart, he loves writing songs with his wife, Catherine, when the children are distracted.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Luke 6:36-38

JUDGING OTHERS

In this passage, Jesus instructs us to exhibit mercy, generosity, and forgiveness and stop finding faults or casting unfair aspersions onto others. When we do these things, we are repaid in equal measure. He is teaching us about the grace, love, and generosity that the Father has for us and how those concepts ought to shine through our interactions with our fellow man.

The world only exists by God's grace. Because He treats us with mercy through that grace and forgiveness of our sins through Christ, we must pass on those same concepts in our everyday lives. All human life is made in God's image; for that reason, we must treat each other with a certain level of honor and respect, as detailed in this passage.

If we can understand what God has done for us and pass on a glimpse of that in our everyday lives through how we interact with each other, we can begin to be reconciled to God. As St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

LIVING OUT LENT

Generosity, grace, and love begets further generosity, grace, and love. Today, let us put those concepts into practice and treat each other as beings made in the image of God.

Danny Grosenbaugh has been attending St. Peter's for about a year and a half and has been a Tallahassee resident for the past 14 years. He was confirmed last year!

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Matthew 23:1-12

WOE TO THE SCRIBES & PHARISEES

Jesus' criticism of the scribes and Pharisees cuts deep. They speak to the people with the authority of Moses, but they don't submit themselves to the authority of Moses. They don't practice what they preach. They do, however, make a show of piety and draw attention to their religious practices. They exalt themselves above the people and go to great lengths to maintain social distance. Jesus tells His disciples not to be like them. He tells them to relate to one another as brothers rather than elevating themselves as teachers. He means they have one father and instructor—God the Father and His son, Christ. By insisting that His disciples resist being called rabbi or father, or instructor, Jesus more than blurs the social distinctions that the scribes and Pharisees worked so hard to establish and maintain. He creates a new social order: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Unlike the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus does practice what He preaches. He is the first to humble Himself. Jesus befriended the outcast. Jesus stoops to wash His disciples' feet. Jesus submits Himself to the ignominy of public execution. The contrast is stark. The scribes and Pharisees attempt to raise themselves with ostentatious acts of piety, whereas Jesus lowers Himself to inconspicuous acts of service.

LIVING OUT LENT

On Ash Wednesday, we were reminded of our innate humility: we are made of dust and shall return to dust. Yet, like the scribes and Pharisees, we are inclined to cover over our dusty humility with insincere shows of piety. We may succeed in hiding our lack of modesty sometimes, but there is no escaping it. Jesus says, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled." During this season of Lent, let us lay aside our broad phylacteries and long fringes and follow Jesus on the humble path of pious service.

Justin Hughes is a deacon ordained in the Diocese of the Carolinas. He serves Christ Classical Academy as Head of the School.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Matthew 20:17-28

SERVING WITH A PURE HEART

Johnny showed up to class with a pan of Jell-O to share with his classmates for his birthday. He said it was all his mother had. We sang happy birthday and ate Jell-O from paper towels, and the kids were delighted! It was one of many humbling experiences I had as a teacher of underprivileged students. I realized then that I was a servant, serving God by teaching, loving, comforting, and respecting those children's and their families lives. Oh, how blessed and privileged I was to be part of that profession.

Greatness is not ruling over others but serving them. Jesus was teaching His disciples that they and His other followers could be great by serving, just as He served others. He demonstrated His commitment to servanthood by giving His life as a ransom for many. A ransom is a price paid to repurchase something. The cost of redeeming sinners was the life of Christ. He gave all He had to pay the sin debt for humanity. Oh, what humility. Oh, what a sacrifice. Oh, what servanthood!

LIVING OUT LENT

As children of God, we have a high calling that can be realized only by lowering ourselves to the level of a servant. Look for opportunities today to serve someone, and take your place alongside Christ, who was the ultimate servant.

Cathy Williams taught middle school for 35 years. She and Stephen Williams have been married for 41 years and have been members of St. Peter's since 2018. Their children are; son Dean (Karla), seven-month-old grandson Christopher, and daughter Jenny.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Luke 16:19-31

REPENTANCE BY GRACE, NOT BY SIGNS

Lent is a time for us to focus on how we live. We are called to recognize our faults and explore how to live a more prosperous, more meaningful life with Christ. In today's parable, a Rich Man lives in luxury. We don't know how he became so wealthy, but we know that he lives on a grand scale. In contrast, a beggar, Lazarus, covered in sores, is carried to the Rich Man's doorway, hoping that some excess food might fall his way. The dogs of the street lick his wounds.

When Lazarus dies, he is carried by angels to Abraham's side. When the Rich Man dies, he is sent to hell, where he suffers greatly, and from this, he can see Abraham and Lazarus in heaven. Assuming his usual tone of command, he calls upon Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him water. Abraham points out that he already had his good things; now Lazarus has his good things. Even more importantly, Abraham points out the chasm that separates them from God's Kingdom.

LIVING OUT LENT

By any account, we have the gifts of the Rich Man in our well-resourced part of the world. Furthermore, we are more prosperous than many in our area. Do we take our riches for granted? Maintaining our means can occupy a lot of time and attention. Are they a stumbling block to our life with Christ? Who are "Lazarus" to us? Where do we see them lying? What wounds do they bear? How do we share our many gifts from God to support the growth and health of the Kingdom of God here on earth? Where do we encounter the Rich Man or Rich Woman? How can we help them experience the Good Things God has offered both now and in the Kingdom to Come?

Susan Chase is a recent newcomer at St. Peter's Anglican Church. She sings in the Choir and serves on the Adult Formation Committee. She is a retired professor of nursing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

In this parable, the landowner represents God; the vineyard represents Israel, the tenants represent the Jewish leadership, and the landowner's son represents Jesus. Jesus prophesied His death at the hands of the Jewish leaders. Even though Jesus' sacrifice made way for the forgiveness of man's sins, there is still a coming judgment.

Jesus reveals the importance of the kingdom of God given to a people who produce good fruits. God has handed His kingdom to us. We are the ones whom He entrusted to produce good fruits. Our first step in producing fruits is faithfulness to God and a personal relationship with Him. Faith in God includes keeping Jesus' teachings and doing God's will.

God opened a door when I was a freshman in high school, so I could learn to evangelize. I was extremely hesitant and kept focusing on my insecurities instead of God. Through prayer and patience, I started to find confidence in evangelizing. I realize that before high school, I prayed I would find myself following God's will and faithfully stepping through any door God opens for me.

LIVING OUT LENT

Are you willing and equipped to step through the opened door and produce the fruits of the kingdom of God?

Lucy Calhoun is a sophomore at Community Christian School. She participates as a student leader with St. Peter's Missions & Evangelism team.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Upon the prodigal son's return, the father calls for him to be dressed in the best robe. In the gospel song "Two Coats," the lyrics say: My Savior has dressed me/ In a garment so rare/ He bought me this new coat / you now see me wear/ I'll tell you the best thing/ I ever did do/ I took off the old coat/ And put on the new. The prodigal son doesn't just realize he made a terrible mistake; he undergoes a conversion. He confesses, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you (*vs. 21*)." When he puts on his father's robe, he takes off the old coat of sin and puts on the new coat of salvation.

When the prodigal son comes home, he finds that his father has been waiting and watching for him. He embraces his son, cuts off his confession, immediately forgives him, and calls for a celebration of thanksgiving to God. He rejoices, "For this, my son was dead, and alive again, he was lost and is found (*vs. 24*)." When we were lost, God was watching and waiting for us, and then welcomed us and celebrated when we finally found our way. And He does this repeatedly because we are fallen creatures and lose our way all the time. And each time we come back, He celebrates.

LIVING OUT LENT

We should reflect on our conversions - when we chose to take off the old coat and put on the new—and rest in the knowledge that we are so loved that when we were found, all of Heaven celebrated. We should also guard ourselves against the self-righteousness in the older brother and the Pharisees because it blinds us from seeing that the sinners, outcasts, and prodigal sons around us need ministering care. As members of the Body of Christ, we celebrate each soul that was lost and is found.

Audrey Nichols has been a confirmed St. Peter's parishioner since May 2021, wife to Clifton, and mother to Walter (7), Audrey (4), and William (2).

*Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in you:
Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires
of your servants, and purify our disordered
affections, that we may behold your eternal glory
in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever
and ever. Amen.*

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 12

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

PEACE WITH GOD

Of all the relationships in our lives, our relationship with God is the most important. That relationship is crucial. Our salvation depends on it. In today's scripture, the Apostle Paul talks about our relationship with God. Paul states, "since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand." Through our faith in Jesus, we have been justified and declared righteous by God. In other words, our faith in Jesus has put us into the right relationship with God. We are also reconciled to God through Jesus' atoning death. Jesus bears the consequences of our sins through His death and has reconciled us to God. Paul observes that God proves or demonstrates His love for us "in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us." That sacrificial death shows the unique majesty of God's love for us. Jesus died for undeserving people who rebelled against God. As Paul states, "Christ died for the ungodly." Jesus did not die for good people. He died for wretched sinners (that is, for us). As a result, we no longer live under the fear of God's judgment and wrath but have peace with God.

LIVING OUT LENT

Lent provides a particular time for us to examine our relationship with God. Where do we fall short in developing and maintaining our relationship with God? What steps can we take to strengthen our relationship with God? How can we better love God?

Ralph Rodgers is married to Kay, and he is the brother of Lee Rodgers. After Ralph's retirement in 2020, Ralph and Kay moved to Tallahassee from Albany, Georgia, and became parishioners at St. Peter's.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Psalm 42:1-11

I THIRST

The psalmist reflects the agony of being separated from God, perfectly mirrored in Jesus' suffering on the cross. The psalmist was mocked when asked, "Where is your God?" Jesus was mocked when others suggested, "let God save him now." The psalmist's soul thirsted for God as crucified Jesus cried, "I thirst."

Mother Teresa founded her ministry on the thirsting Jesus, believing He thirsted for the souls of the people He was dying for. She responded with absolute obedience to His will – to love and care for the poorest of the poor and to spread the gospel through her works. Yet she, too, experienced separation from God that spanned 50 years, even as she reflected outward joy and obedience. Late in life, she came to see her agonizing sense of separation from God as a gift from Jesus to enter into His suffering and experience communion with Him on the cross.

Reflecting on Psalm 42 makes me think about how hard it can be to relate to the psalmist's deep thirst when we live in a time of abundance. Yet, I see this longing in my mother's long physical decline. As she nears 103, material things have no value to her, and she craves nothing, hardly even food or drinks, as she gets closer to the day of union with her Savior. That may be the lesson for us. Loss and lack, however painful, point us to our soul's only satisfaction, union with God.

LIVING OUT LENT

When a sense of separation from God plagues us, we can challenge our souls to "put our hope in God" and to praise Him as the psalmist did, and continue to serve Him as Mother Teresa modeled for us joyously.

Michelle Ubben, her husband, Matt, and their six children have been members of St. Peter's since its founding. She had the opportunity to meet Mother Teresa when she opened an AIDS home in Atlanta two years before her death.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Matthew 18:21-35

THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

In this passage, Jesus uses a parable to demonstrate God's grace for us and how much grace we are meant to have for one another. From the king, we see a clear parallel of God's grace towards us. From the servant whose debt was forgiven, we see a reflection of ourselves and how quickly we forget the debts God has forgiven.

When going through this story, we often condemn the servant for demanding the debt owed to him by his fellow servant so soon after his enormous debt was forgiven. We also probably believe that we would never be as foolish or ungrateful as the servant in this story, failing to remember our anger and frustration towards people who have wronged us. It is easy to tell ourselves that our anger is justified; the other person's words or actions hurt us, and they have failed to apologize. In holding onto this mindset, though, we are just like the servant, demanding debt be repaid even though our much more considerable debt towards God has been forgiven. When we feel angry or hold a grudge, we must take a moment to remember the sins God has forgiven us and extend a fraction of that forgiveness to our brothers and sisters.

LIVING OUT LENT

Am I withholding forgiveness from anyone? Have I recently asked God to forgive me? Pray for God to give you the ability to extend grace to someone you do not believe "deserves" it. Ask for self-awareness to avoid the mistakes of the ungrateful servant.

Katy Merritt and her family have attended St. Peter's since 2015. She serves St. Peter's as a subdeacon and LEM.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Matthew 5:17-19

FULFILLMENT OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus is speaking about His coming to fulfill the Law, not to abolish it. Key to this passage is the statement, "...until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved" (Matthew 5:18, NLT). What is the purpose of the law? Turning to Romans 5:20, NLT, we find that "God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were." After recognizing and confessing their sin, His people could turn to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to cover their sins, with the knowledge that God's "grace might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (*Romans 5:21*).

Concerning the Old Testament commandments, in verse 19, Jesus warns that if anyone relaxed even the least of the commandments and taught others to do the same, they would be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. ESV footnotes point out that two types of commandments were referred to here: light and weighty. Tithing garden produce is an example of a light commandment, whereas commandments against idolatry and murder are cited as weighty. Jesus demanded "a commitment to both the least and greatest commandments." This sounds like a hopeless situation; it is as if we depend on our strengths, but it is only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ that we can achieve this commitment.

LIVING OUT LENT

We must recognize that "The entire OT is the expression of God's will but is now to be taught according to Jesus' interpretation of its intent and meaning" (*Footnote, ESV Study Bible, Matthew 5:19*).

Sam Bennett is a parishioner of ten years who follows Jesus as Lord. He and his wife Nancy have been married for 54 years and have two sons and four grandsons.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Psalm 95:1-11

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 95 tells us that God is a great King above all gods and that He created and sustains us—which is why we should praise and worship Him. As we read, the beauty of the words seeps into our hearts. When life is good, we agree; but when the dark clouds roll in, we lash out at God. We become filled with doubt, our faith wavers, and then the most dangerous thing happens—our hearts become hardened, and obedience falls by the wayside. We too quickly forget all that He has done for us. We are much like our ancestors in verses 8-11.

We have undoubtedly witnessed God's sustaining measures here at St. Peter's and throughout our lives. Do not let the dark clouds cover your eyes to God's greatness. Continue praising Him with joyful noises even when you are languishing in the wilderness; continue to be faithful in your obedience. "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand" (v6-7).

LIVING OUT LENT

As we journey through Lent, let us examine how He has provided and sustained us during the good and bad times and how you can make a joyful noise of praise to our great king. Let us kneel before Him in complete obedience, knowing we are His sheep and He the great shepherd.

Terri Sue Aldridge Lawson and her family have been members of St. Peter's for ten years, and she recently became a Daughter of the Holy Cross.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Mark 12:28-34

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

As journeying Christians, we recognize that we live in a fallen world where evil can seem to be overcoming us. We feel battered by the pressure of keeping the faith, walking the walk, and heeding Christ's call to keep ministering to His sheep. There may have even been times when we wondered if we were on the right track.

This passage does provide great assurances. It follows the Pharisees' accusation that Jesus can cast out a demon because He IS Satan. However, Jesus explains that He is casting out evil through the power of God's Holy Spirit, who sent Him, making the point that His coming has brought the Kingdom of God to man. Jesus' allegory, in these verses, about the binding of a strong man (Satan) and overcoming his power to rob him of his possessions (casting out evil) provides an understandable example.

Jesus then goes on to prophetically speak about blasphemy of the Spirit as the only unforgivable sin, not only in this earthly realm but also in the Heavenly realm. On reflection, it occurred to me that Jesus was giving us irrefutable proof of His identity and authority to act in and through the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. If it were not the truth, for Jesus to make that claim would be the ultimate, unforgivable blasphemy. Taking note of His allegory above, why would Jesus act in a way that would bring about His doom? This revelation of identity and purpose can give us great peace and confidence in answering Christ's call to action for us, given in verse 30, "Whoever is not with me is against me."

LIVING OUT LENT

Lent is a beautiful time to reflect on who Christ is and how we can be His help.

Susan Cutchins has been a member of St. Peter's for about five years and has been blessed by the fellowship and service opportunities of the Charles Simeon Institute, women's retreats and events, Knutty Knitters, the Artisan's Guild, and the Banner Ministry.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Luke 18:9-14

THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Jesus addresses this to those under the pharisaical influence, feeling righteous and quite satisfied with themselves. They deemed others as insignificant zeroes, nothings, as the Greek text implies. Jesus would have them reconsider (and repent). He tells a parable of two men. One is a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The former is outwardly an upstanding individual and religiously observant, the latter a scoundrel. The tax collectors of the day (or “publicans”) were men paid by the Roman government to gather the owed taxes of a given region. Any surplus that the publican could cheat or beat out of a citizen was his to keep.

So why was the reprobate justified and not the scrupulous one? The crucial difference is their approach to a Holy God. The one is there to inform God that he is, spiritually speaking, setting the curve. Perhaps God should count it an honor to be graced with his presence! The other knows his depravity and implores God to show him mercy, which he doesn’t deserve. It is the latter attitude that God will honor.

LIVING OUT LENT

I think our default psychology leads us to look around, find a poor soul who seems worse than we are in some way, and then feel more “righteousness.” Of course, we know this is theologically untenable, yet we often do it, nonetheless. We might even read this passage and think, “Well, at least I’m not like that Pharisee!” That would, of course, be to miss the point altogether. All we have to offer God is our sins. May we daily seek His mercy. “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Mike Ford is a local physician who, with his wife Elaine and his daughter, Michelle, son-in-law Brandon, and two grandchildren, Henley and Laina, have had the privilege of attending St. Peter’s for several years.

*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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 19

Ephesians 5:8-14

WALK IN LOVE

This passage is from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, showing how the Christian life should be lived. Believers should turn away from their former sinful ways to live good lives as children of light. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, they are empowered to live lives pleasing to God. They are to pursue what is "good and right and true." They are to avoid deeds of darkness and, simultaneously, stand up for what is true and correct by exposing these very deeds. At the time this letter was written, Ephesus was a very cosmopolitan city of about 200,000. It was a vital seaport hub of major north-south and east-west trade routes. In such an environment, the newly converted Christians were exposed to other religious customs, beliefs, and worldly temptations that would have seemed enticing. This can be compared to what we face daily.

As Christians, these words are especially appropriate and essential today. The world around us can make it very tempting to slip from pursuing what is good and faithful. We are also called to help expose deeds of darkness. God needs us to stand up for what is true and correct. This passage contains powerful words and instructions on living in the light. By continually doing my best to do this, I am an example for our children and grandchildren.

LIVING OUT LENT

The Lenten season is about personal reflection, prayer, and repentance. Paul's words speak about these things. In pursuing a life in the light, we must reflect on where we are in this journey and prayerfully ask for God's guidance. This journey also requires that we seek repentance from our sins.

Elizabeth Maples is married to Jim. She is involved in Bible study, flower guild, flower angels, and LEM-Vs.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

John 4:43-54

JESUS HEALS AN OFFICIAL'S SON

In this passage, Jesus is seen traveling from Samaria to Cana. Because Jesus had recently performed His first miracle at the wedding, the Galileans received Jesus out of curiosity, not belief. The official begged Jesus to heal his son out of desperation because of His reputation as a miracle worker. Although it took some faith from the official to travel so far, Jesus chided his need for a miraculous sign to believe in Christ Jesus remarked that Samaritans believed without unique signs.

The response of the Galileans was fundamentally flawed because it disregarded the person of Christ and centered on their need for a constant display of miraculous signs. Such an attitude represents the most profound state of unbelief. Jesus met the officials' urging by healing his son, revealing His sympathy and grace despite such faithless demands for miracles. With great authority, Jesus says, "Go; your son lives," demonstrating His divine attributes of power over time, elements, distance, and disease (v. 49-50). The official's faith was strengthened afterward so much that he accepted Christ as the Messiah, and his whole household believed. Jesus contemplates, confronts, and conquers disbelief from His people. This miracle shows us who Jesus is and His divine character. He is omnipresent and omniscient.

LIVING OUT LENT

It is normal to take the blessings that we have close to us for granted. Be encouraged to pray, for our Lord wants to hear from us; let us have faith in God rather than demanding proof of His care. Let us see signs of God anywhere, even during trials.

Jaimi Wacksman is married to Jim, and they have two daughters, Evelyn and Emma.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

John 5:1-16

THE HEALING AT THE POOL ON THE SABBATH

Jesus saw a man lying at the Bethesda pool, realizing that he had been seriously disabled for many years. Thirty-eight years of waiting to be healed! He knew that longings must have existed deep within this man's heart. Jesus patiently spoke with him, allowing the man to reveal the pain of his isolation. Jesus also kindled His desire to be healed, asking, "Do you want to be made well?" The chronically ill man expected nothing new because no one could help him access the needed first dip into the curing water. Since there is no end to His creative ability, God can always surprise us.

The man in this story is perhaps the least willing and grateful of all the people Jesus healed in John's Gospel. Realizing that this man was living in darkness, Jesus sought after him because He wanted to heal his soul from sin. Jesus tells of His desire for the man, "Do not sin anymore." The crippled man needed to seek forgiveness and healing for his sins.

Jesus performed many miracles during His earthly ministry, including this one performed at Bethesda. The warning to this crippled man and us is that we need to take care of what is going on within our hearts. Being healed from a terrible disease is a wonderful miracle, but the actual crippling disease that Jesus cares about is inside our hearts. God wants to remove the sin that separates us from Him. Ultimately, healing comes from our Savior Himself.

LIVING OUT LENT

As we minister through prayers to our God, the Great Physician, for and with those who face sickness, grief, or disabilities, asking that they and we be brought physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, we continue to help our Savior's healing work of making others and ourselves whole.

Betty Edenfeld Piephoff grew up in Tallahassee. She worked in Atlanta as an elementary school teacher and an art therapist. Betty and her husband, Bill DeAngelis, love their St. Peter's family. Betty enjoys serving as a reader for Toddler Storytime.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

John 5:17-30

THE AUTHORITY OF THE SON

This passage tells us who Jesus is and His relationship with the Father. He reflects the Father, in unison with Him, never acting out of His own desires but always honoring God by doing His will. In this passage, Jesus shows us the way to eternal life through Him as the Son of God. We have eternal life by hearing His word and believing and honoring God who sent Him. Think about that. It is a life that never ends because Jesus is eternal and lives in you. We can live now in the grace of God. No sin is so great that it cannot be forgiven. This was given to us. Why? Because we were created in love by our heavenly Father and are loved eternally by Christ, His Son. That thought should take your breath away!

LIVING OUT LENT

May we always remember to begin and end each day in awe and thanksgiving for this priceless, incredible gift.

Dolores Mosby has been attending St. Peter's with her husband, Rick, for the last four years. They have been married for 42 years. Dolores is the proud mother of 2 incredible children and a grandma to 2 adorable grandchildren.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

John 5:31-47

TESTIMONIES OF JESUS AS GOD'S SON

Have you ever tried to focus on just one instrument while listening to a symphony? It isn't easy to do! When we hear all the musical instruments, we understand better what the composer had in mind when composing the music.

In this scripture, we read Jesus' response to the religious leaders' disapproval of His healing of a man on the Sabbath (Deut. 5: 12-15). The joyous laughter and amazed expressions of those who witnessed the healing (not to mention the man who was healed!) must have been remarkable. But the religious leaders were so laser-focused on keeping the law that they could not share in their amazement.

Instead, they accused Jesus of breaking the law. Jesus, who came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17-18), reminds the leaders of His many witnesses (Deut. 19:15), something of profound significance to the people of that day. Like a well-tuned symphony, John the Baptist, the Father, the scriptures, and the testimony of Moses all sing the praises of Jesus. But the religious leaders were so busy drumming out the demands of the law that they drowned out the refrain of those witnesses. Jesus tells them they do not have a love of God (John 5:38).

What's the real issue here? The religious leaders enjoyed the light of John the Baptist for a while, then extinguished it. They refused to believe that God had sent Jesus, even as Jesus did the works the Father sent Him to do. They searched the scriptures diligently but failed to see Jesus in them. They put their hopes in Moses, even though Moses wrote about Jesus. When allowed to hear the full orchestra play God's salvation song, they chose to close their ears.

LIVING OUT LENT

This Lent, listen for the music of heaven and join the chorus praising Jesus for setting us free (Galatians 5:1).

Kathy Ciarlariello is married to Tony. They have two sons and a lovely daughter-in-love. Kathy teaches speech at Community Christian School (CCS).

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

JESUS' PERFECT TIMING

Jesus and His disciples (He calls them “brothers”) are traveling to the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. He tells them to go ahead while He proceeds to Galilee to evade the hostile Jews who are out to seize and kill Him. John 7:10 describes how Jesus walks from Galilee to Jerusalem to join the disciples at the Feast. The Scripture says He goes, “not publicly, but in private.” Reaching Jerusalem, He reveals Himself by preaching and teaching at the Temple. Some people question His identity, but the Sanhedrin know He is the rabble-rouser they seek. Jesus settles questions about His identity when He says He is of God, from God, and knows God as His Father. What happens next is another miracle. The enraged rulers attempt to seize Him but cannot do so. God’s protective hand keeps Jesus safe. His time has not yet come.

In these texts, Jesus displays three attributes we should imitate: 1) Prudence: detouring to Galilee, going in private, not public; 2) Obedience: speaking boldly of His identity in the Temple; and 3) Faithfulness: trusting God’s plan in this terrible journey to His death. Do I practice the common sense that God has given me in my own life? Do I listen for the Holy Spirit’s guidance throughout the day? When I hear the Holy Spirit, do I obey His calling, even if it is costly in terms of time, effort, or financial sacrifice?

LIVING OUT LENT

God’s plans for my life are sometimes clear or blurry but often impossible to know. My job is to trust that God’s plans are not only good but perfect. His timing is perfect. That is all I need to know. Therein lies peace.

Susan Eaton has been married to Tom for 48 years. She is a Parish Visitor’s Guild member and deeply appreciates the many educational opportunities St. Peter’s provides.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

John 7:40-53

DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE

The first verse of this scripture passage begins with Jesus teaching in the temple. The question among the people was, “Who is this man?” Was he a prophet or the Messiah, and how could the Messiah come from Galilee? The Pharisees were unhappy, and the temple police were sent to arrest him. When they returned without the Lord, they said, “No one ever spoke like this man.” The Pharisees, the current experts on the law, rejected Jesus without real investigation. They believed that their truth was the only truth.

When do we judge and act like the Pharisees? Are there times when we also are critical of people who are different? Conversely, like Nicodemus, are we willing to speak out and to speak up for what we believe? And are we reluctant to go out into our community and share the loving, forgiving, embracing Word of God and not just learn the doctrines of our faith? While it is wonderful to know these doctrines, they don't bear fruit unless our hearts and lives are thoroughly influenced by what we know; that is, Heart knowledge, not head knowledge. We fulfill the will of God through the inner influence of the Holy Spirit instead of the Pharisee-like outer influence of the law of God. Every Sunday, we are encouraged “to go out to do the work you have given us to do and to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.” How are we doing?

LIVING OUT LENT

Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 when talking about the Pharisees: “These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.” Have we settled down in a comfortable oasis and forgotten our call? Each day when we pray, let's ask ourselves, “What have I learned from Jesus today?”

Dick and June Stewart have been members of St. Peter's since 2017. Dick is an Ambassador with the Cathedral Connections Ministry, serves as a Greeter, chairs the Parking Team, and is the proud Papa of Reagan and Alexandra Stewart.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 26

Romans 8:8-11

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Paul addresses some tensions between the Jews and Gentiles in Rome by contrasting the non-believers with the believers in Christ. It is a shift from the old to the new age, the old age of sin, versus the new age of eternal life, a life of sin and death, to a new life of freedom from sin and death. He does this by pointing out that in the old way, a life living in fleshly desires not pleasing to God, a life ending in death. In the new life, we have a new identity, not subject to death, a life of peace.

There have been times in my life when it seems I lived under the old Law wanting what I wanted when I wanted it, trying to satisfy my fleshly desires. At the time, it seemed all was good, but it was only temporary because I was leaving out what God had provided through the death of His son, Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. There, indeed, is a peace that passes all understanding with the Holy Spirit.

LIVING OUT LENT

During this Lent, may our prayer be “Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.”

Jane Flynn is a Staff Assistant at the Cathedral whose passion is helping others with the joy of the living Christ.

MONDAY, MARCH 27

John 8:1-11

THROWING STONES

Jesus teaches in the temple, and many people talk, question, and believe. With their self-centered and narrow attitude, the Pharisees are upset with His teaching and want to arrest Him. Some Pharisees bring a woman caught in the act of adultery to Him, hoping to use her to trap or trick Jesus. They ask Him what He has to say about this situation. Jesus stops teaching as everyone watches. If He says the woman should not be stoned, they will accuse Him of breaking the Law of Moses. If Jesus says to stone her, they would report Him to the Romans, for they did not allow the Jews to carry out executions on their own authority.

Jesus bends down and begins to write on the ground with His finger. What is He writing? He stands up and says that only a sinless person should throw the first stone and again stoops down and continues to write. Jesus is making it personal. Which Pharisees are without sin and willing to throw the first stone? Everyone is watching; one by one, the Pharisees walk away, starting with the oldest, until only Jesus and the woman are left. Seeing they are alone, He asks her if anyone condemns her, to which she replies, "No one, Sir." He then tells her, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." His words are significant, teaching us about not judging others and the importance of compassion and forgiveness.

LIVING OUT LENT

Do we quickly pass judgment on others? To do so is to act as if we have never sinned. It is God's role to judge, not ours. Our job is to show compassion and forgiveness. Everyone deserves second chances.

Julie Dombroski has been an active member of St. Peter's since its founding. She currently serves on the vestry..

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

John 8:21-30

DOING WHAT IS PLEASING TO GOD

In this passage, Jesus stresses the importance of the Pharisees believing in Him. He warns them that they will die from the sin of unbelief. They ridicule Him when He foretells His departure from this world. He reminds them of their humanity and foreseeable death due to the universal sinful nature of man, also proclaiming that He is not of this world. The Jews refuse to accept Jesus and His relationship with the Father. Jesus further emphasizes His dependency on and obedience to the Father in all things, including His crucifixion. Because Jesus' life was consistent with His message of unity with God, many became believers. Unlike the Pharisees, these believers could see Jesus' authentic, loving relationship with the Father. The Pharisees cultivated only an image of intimacy with God; it was evident that they were far from Him.

I believe Jesus speaks to us through this passage by comparing His relationship with the Pharisees and the type of relationship He desires with us. God gave the ultimate sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son, and Jesus paid for it in full by dying for our sins so that we could have a pathway to being with God eternally. God has shown us how much He wants a relationship with us, but a relationship is a two-way street. Which connection do we want to emulate, Jesus' or the Pharisees'? Which relationship draws others to Him? If we don't know God, then we can't truly love Him. Without love, there is no relationship. From my experience, I feel closer to God when I read and study His word and talk with Him. I learn more fully what God's plan is for me and how I can live into that plan.

LIVING OUT LENT

During Lent, we need to develop habits that draw us closer in our relationship with God, which is crucial in our lives.

Lee Rodgers has been a member of St. Peter's since its founding. She has three grown children. She loves working at Tallahassee Classical School, where she finds great fulfillment.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

John 8:31-42

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

In today's reading, Jesus talks to a group of Jews who believed in Him. These descendants of Abraham believed they had never been cast into bondage and were, therefore, free. To this, Jesus said that they were not seeds of Abraham or his children because they did not do what Abraham did; that is, obey God and respond to His message. When Jesus spoke to these newly converted Jews, He told them they needed to become free and that their acceptance of His word would make them free. This verse implies that we are a captive of sin until we know the truth. Sometimes we sin without knowing it. The promise of freedom is the most enticing aspect of sin. In the Garden of Eden, Adam was tempted to defy the word of God to control his destiny and be free to make a choice. Sin enslaves us and corrupts our thinking and actions and our inner self peace. Most importantly, it separates us from God.

My journey to being set free continues. My faith grows in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, who said that we would begin to know the truth when we obey His teachings. In these words, I have started to understand that freedom is not entirely my privilege as I had previously thought, but rather a place at the end of my path. The Lord has sent me to this place, giving me additional direction and clarity in walking my path to absolute freedom. I will continue to strive to understand His teachings, avoid the temptation of sin and find greater freedom. God gives us the Spirit to help us obey His word. God provides us with the power to overcome sin.

LIVING OUT LENT

The Lenten season reminds us that we are all sinners. If we confess our sins, the truth will set us free. God is truth.

Andrea Lewis has been attending St. Peter's Cathedral for a little over one year and is a recent new member.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

John 8:51-59

ADMITTING WHEN WE ARE WRONG

The cauldron of hate towards Jesus from the religious leaders boiled over in John 8. “Who do you make yourself out to be?” (v. 53), they challenged. These religious leaders question Jesus’ heritage and motivation.

How Jesus responded to this was simply astonishing. Jesus asserted, in a matter-of-fact manner, a seeming impossibility that Abraham saw forward, into the history of God’s people, to Jesus Himself and rejoiced. Implicit in this assertion is that Abraham was subordinate to Jesus. When the leaders protested at this, Jesus made a more astounding claim. He claimed preexistence to Abraham. Jesus declared Himself God, God incarnate. There could be no greater blasphemy if Jesus were not who He claimed to be. The leaders heard blasphemy and picked up stones, ignoring all that Jesus taught, all the miracles He had performed, and everything that pointed to His divinity. These religious leaders were privy to Jesus’ ministry in real-time. They saw, but in a way, they had not seen. Heart perspective directly influences how two people see the same event but draw different conclusions.

It was not the outsiders, the bad people, the broken, and those who knew their sin who rejected Jesus. The good people, civic/religious leaders, and the elites in Jewish society saw themselves as whole and good. These good people rejected Jesus. Their rejection was born of religious and racial pride and a self-perceived rectitude that walled off their souls from the One who was the true culmination of Judaism. Hard of heart, their eyes were blind to the light of the world, their ears deaf to the best, truly good news. Lacking a spiritual heart, rote religious practice is always soul deadly. Which are we, receivers or rejecters of the Good News?

LIVING OUT LENT

Who is Jesus to you? Life for you now, and the life to come, rises or falls on your answer.

Brian Bailey is a member of St. Peter’s Cathedral.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

John 10:31-42

CONTINUING REFUSAL TO BELIEVE

Have you ever talked with someone who has made their mind up despite evidence contradicting them? What's even more frustrating is when it seems there's nothing you can do or say to convince them that they're wrong. Most of us have dealt with unreasonable people, and if we're honest, we might even admit to, on occasion, having made up our minds before seeing or hearing all the facts.

Have you heard the old saying that seeing is believing, and actions speak louder than words? Today's reading proves that neither of those is true in the case of the Pharisees. It demonstrates that those who see don't always believe; only those who believe really see.

The Jews recognized the claims Jesus was making, but how was it they didn't recognize the signs that He was performing that validated them? In today's passage, Christ's showing us that sometimes, people are unable to see and as frustrating as that may be, as Christians, we're to extend the offer of salvation, even to hostile unbelievers.

As Christians, we should rest easy in verses 40-42. John The Baptizer didn't rely on miracles; his testimony bore witness to Jesus being the Messiah. So likewise, we should take great comfort in knowing that we don't need to rely on miracles or signs to be effective witnesses for Christ. We only need to share God's Word and let His work reflect through our testimony.

LIVING OUT LENT

During this season, I pray that the Holy Spirit will remain with St Peter's so that many will see the truth of who Christ is and come to Him through us.

Jake Money, his wife Johanna, and their two children are members of St. Peter's. They're committed to the future at St. Peter's and volunteer in various capacities.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

John 11:45-56

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

John illustrates divided opinions about Jesus. There were loyal, mostly poor followers who expected everything from God and looked to Jesus as the Messiah. The second group consisted of fearful people dependent upon the temple for survival and ready to inform the authorities of Jesus' whereabouts. Then there were the Jewish leaders. Like the second group, they were more concerned about outward circumstances than the truth, which was in plain view. They all knew and believed that the miracles took place, saw, and heard the same things but went in different directions. Mary proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah. Caiaphas, the high priest, prophesied that Jesus would die for the nations and the scattered children of God. His statement about saving the people was a political one, not a religious one. It was true, but not in the way he thought.

The old song says, "They will know we are Christians by our love." How do they know our love? Action. My mother reminded us, kids, that actions speak louder than words. We would put on that cute face and smile and say, "Mommy, I love you." She would say that if we did what she asked, we would be showing love. Words without actions are empty. Obedience is both a sign and a test of our love. Thankfully, we have a model for loving Jesus and doing God's will by looking at His life of obedience to the Father. Loving Jesus is not merely a feeling but a dynamic, abiding, ongoing relationship of following and obeying Him.

LIVING OUT LENT

Our fundamental belief about Jesus and our love for Him is revealed in our actions which speak louder than words. Ponder, can I let go of life's circumstances and embrace the Lord's will with total trust and serenity, no matter how challenging that may be?

Connie Wooding has been a member of St. Peter's since its founding and is active in various ministries.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Matthew 21:1-11

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Jesus is the promised King. He is fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy from the book of Zechariah, which says, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden’” (Zechariah 9:9, ESV). Jesus had sent two disciples to get the colt. They were instructed to tell anyone asking about the removal of the colt that the Lord needed it. Am I ready to let go when Jesus asks anything from me?

Jesus rides into Jerusalem as the King coming in peace. Worshipers surround him. Jesus is the only one worthy of praise. The crowds are fearless. They must know of the hostile reception that awaits them in Jerusalem. Regardless, they openly declare Jesus a prophet. Am I declaring Jesus as King?

This scripture could remain as words on a page, but scripture must become alive. The disciples did as Jesus had directed them. I must spend time listening to God’s word. I must prepare to do what is asked of me and accompany Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. I must be focused on Him, not the fleeting things of time. Sometimes this will be difficult, but Jesus paved the way before. I should not fear.

Lent has never been a season I have looked forward to. Give me Advent with all the joy and festivities. Slowly, I am coming to see the importance of Lent. St. Peter’s has helped me on my journey towards more fully embracing this season. St. Peter’s provides services, education, and encouraging literature. They do not ‘guilt’ you into Lent.

LIVING OUT LENT

“Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You” (St. Brendan).

Duncan Brown is a member of St. Peter’s and is active in the Parish visitors Guild, LEMV, and is training to become a Docent.

John 12:1-11

MARY ANOINTS JESUS AT BETHANY

In this passage, Judas demanded to know why the expensive perfume wasn't sold and given to the poor. While outside, a crowd of Jews gathered to see this Jesus who raised a man from the dead after three days. The chief priests felt their religious authority and positions were threatened by this Jesus. The evidence of an ALIVE Lazarus was too much for them to tolerate! They thought they must act, or the Jews would recognize Jesus as Messiah, and their prominence and authority would be gone!

In this scripture, Jesus was aware of His impending death on this sixth day before Passover, the Jewish celebration of God's rescue of their people enslaved in Egypt. He affirms that devotion like Mary's and offering the best to Him should be our priority.

LIVING OUT LENT

Father God, help us during this Lenten period to understand this passage deeply. Open our hearts to honor Jesus, whom You sent to rescue us in a broken world, enslaved by sin, greed, and love of self. As we follow the Stations of the Cross and reflect along that tortuous path that led to the cross where Jesus would die, impress upon our hearts that His suffering was meant to enable us to love and serve Him until He comes again. Let us be aware of the persecution of Christians in the past and our world today. Help us to offer respect, unlike some who gathered at the table in the home of Mary and Martha, and give us generosity to help those who suffer for serving Jesus. Impress upon our hearts to honor You and the sacrifice Jesus made to rescue more souls for the Kingdom of God. Help us to understand that on this earth You created; we are all brothers and sisters, created by ONE Father. Help us learn and do the work You have given us to do. In Jesus' name. AMEN.

Kathy Gomer is a member of St. Peter's. Kathy leads the mission Wings for Change and recently visited Africa to further her mission there.

John 13:21-33, 36-38

DECEPTION

At first blush, the reading of this Scripture passage seems to speak loudly of the themes of betrayal and denial of Jesus. While these themes are certainly evident, a third theme speaks to Jesus giving us a new commandment. Jesus makes it clear that His glorification is tied to His death. Belief in Jesus is the only way to God, and Jesus alone can provide access to God. Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe in Him. In His new commandment, Jesus says to love one another as He loves us.

As I meditated on this new commandment, I asked myself, “Am I following Jesus’ command?” I do not think so. Jesus is commanding me to love others in a profound and transformative way. This means that I need to grow every day in my attentiveness to Jesus’ voice, telling me to love all my fellow human beings regardless of who they are, what they look like, how they speak or dress, how they smell, etc. How can I keep listening to Jesus’ voice when I live in a world constantly distracted by glittering vices that seem more attractive, more appealing, and more meaningful? I must keep myself rooted continuously in Jesus, listening to His voice, and loving others as Jesus loves me, a wretched sinner who often finds loving others complicated and inconvenient.

LIVING OUT LENT

During this Lenten season, I will begin each day listening to Jesus’ voice instructing me to love others as He loves me. Even small acts of kindness and compassion, such as smiling at strangers, opening a door for another, and opening for a driver on a congested street, will help me stay attentive to the voice of Jesus telling me to love others.

Lucile Palmer is grateful to have been a member of St. Peter’s since its founding. Lucile is a member of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Lucile and her husband, Bill Brinson, regularly attend Sunday Evensong.

Matthew 26:14-25

“IS IT I, LORD?”

Within thirteen brief verses, Matthew presents a host of actors: chiefly our Lord Himself; the twelve disciples; the chief priests; the mysterious “certain man,” whom Mark identifies as the man carrying a water jar; and the first mentioned, the infamous betrayer, Judas Iscariot.

Mark and Luke mention “money.” Only Matthew, the tax collector, says specifically thirty pieces of silver. At least twice in the Old Testament, this amount is mentioned: first in Exodus 21:32, as the value of a slave; and then in Zechariah 11:12, as the wages of a shepherd “doomed to be slain.” The actual value is unknown, but scholars speculate this was equivalent to the wages of 120 days of work, not a small sum. The chief priests were eager to see Jesus out of the way, and Judas, the keeper of the money bag, elsewhere described as a thief, was resolved to enrich himself in the deal.

In a crisp and succinct narrative, Matthew tells us that Judas sought an opportunity to hand over his Lord and Savior after the deal was struck. No hesitation, no misgivings, no reconsideration, no second thoughts. Whatever his faults, Judas was a clear-headed and decisive man.

Sin is rarely an impulsive or accidental thing. Like Judas, we’re strong-willed creatures and all too frequently clear-headed in what we’re about to do. As we use Lent to examine ourselves, we must recall many moments in which we have betrayed the Lord.

LIVING OUT LENT

In reading these verses, we must ask ourselves where we find ourselves in this story. I want to be the one who showed the disciples the way to the upper room. Let us pray that we don’t fall under Jesus’ uncomfortable words, “Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Laurence K. Wells and his wife Olga moved to Tallahassee from Jacksonville, where he served 35 years as Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Catholic Church. Larry and Olga are delighted to be a part of the St. Peter’s family.

John 13:1-15

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

In ancient times, almost everyone went barefoot or wore open sandals. Dirty would have been the norm. Washing someone else's feet would have been a sign of profound submission, if not of slavery, to that person. Jesus' washing the feet of His disciples the night before His crucifixion, when He knew that He had so little time left, tells us that the message He was trying to convey was not just important but central to His life and purpose. If any of His disciples still secretly expected Jesus to pick up a sword and lead a military rebellion against Rome, they would hardly have expected this!

At one level, Jesus' message was simple. He dramatically illustrated what a life of service and humility looks like. His actions spoke far louder than any words He might have used. When His disciples balked, Jesus took a hard line, saying, in effect, "If I don't wash you, you don't belong to me." For those wishing to truly follow Jesus, humility, and service to others were not optional. Jesus is talking about holiness, not personal hygiene. But there is another message here: no matter how dirty we are, we can be cleansed by Christ if we submit to Him. It is pride, the worst and most ubiquitous sin, that stands in our way.

LIVING OUT LENT

This Lenten season, take the opportunity to reflect on the ways pride has seeped into all of our hearts and minds and how it has predisposed us all to thoughts, words, and deeds that violate Jesus' command to live and act with humility. How would our lives change if we could overcome pride and live as Jesus commanded?

Bill Applegate has been a member of St. Peter's since 2011; he is a member of the Adult Formation Committee.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS

Isaiah's prophecy of God's suffering servant is a scripture text frequently read during Lent. We see God's servant's horrific physical, mental, and spiritual abuse through the prophet. We have been exposed to visions of unspeakable violence done by people in our world. It is just that nightmarish wickedness that the prophet says will be inflicted on the Servant of God. We are repulsed and sickened by images in contemporary media, even as we have become numbed by the constant daily drumbeat of unthinkable violence. It is easy to fail to make a visceral connection to this same level of violence and abuse inflicted upon God's servant and to recognize that it is for us that He suffered this torture. Jesus suffered and was killed by crucifixion for you and me. When we identify and own His death as the cost of our salvation, it should change how we live. The apostle Philip shared this prophecy with the Eunuch from the royal court of Ethiopia, traveling on the road to Ethiopia from Jerusalem. After Philip opened the text to him, the Eunuch stopped his chariot and asked to be baptized there. Understanding God's Word causes us to change the way we live. The prophet, speaking God's Word, does not leave us in despair, but with the hope and the promise of God, the complete and total triumph and glory of God's Messiah, Jesus.

LIVING OUT LENT

How is God calling me to be a servant? Are there ways my life should be different because of what Jesus has done for me? Is there any reason I should not respond to God's call to me?

Forrest Boone and Barbara have been married for 47 years and have raised three sons. The Boones have been members of St. Peter's since its founding. Forrest served on the initial Vestry of St. Peter's and has shared in many parish activities.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8 | LITURGY AT NOON & EASTER VIGIL AT 8:30PM

1 Peter 4:1-8

GOD'S GRACE

Love your neighbor is a simple thing made complicated by the world we live in. Peter gives us strict advice to live intentionally and prioritize Christ as the center of all we do. With all the excitement life can bring, getting lost and off track of where we need to be is simple. Peter reminds us in this passage of our true purpose and what we are called to do as Christians.

Peter also allows us to see how Jesus views suffering in this passage. We are reminded that suffering is not uncommon; as Christians, we should expect it. We are instructed as followers of Christ to look different from the world. No amount of pain we can experience now will compare to the eternal joy we will be gifted with. We must remember that bringing glory to the kingdom is more important than conforming to the world's ways purely to avoid criticism and judgment from those around us.

No matter what we are going through, regardless of the hurt and pain we feel, it is essential always to remember to approach these trials with grace. It is easy to remember to be kind, patient, and loving when life is going smoothly. During periods of heartache, our focus is typically centered around the problem we face, not the God who can guide us through it. It is easy to get lost in the emotions that develop from these unfortunate seasons in life; however, as Peter reminds us in this passage, our job as Christians is to show the love of Jesus through our life in all seasons, including times of suffering.

LIVING OUT LENT

As we read this message, we remember Peter's denial on Thursday and Christ's death on Good Friday. As we experience the Easter vigil and move into Eastertide and beyond, remember to "love each other earnestly" throughout our lives.

Ashlyn Anderson is a student at FSU. She has been a member of St. Peter's her whole life and feels blessed to be able to contribute to the Lenten Devotional this year.

John 20:1-10

HE IS RISEN!

After Jesus' crucifixion, devoted followers went to His tomb and found it open and empty. Jesus wasn't there. Their surprise led to lots of scurrying around but no resolution. Instead, the disciples went home baffled because, as verse 9 says, "for as yet they did not understand the Scriptures, that he must rise from the dead." In other words, these saints walked the ground of the most wonderfully pivotal event in human history – the resurrection of Jesus – but they didn't immediately appreciate the gravity of what had happened.

As 21st-century Christ-followers, we know the rest of this terrific story. Jesus has risen! We have been saved from sin and death. But too often, we find ourselves in dilemmas similar to these early saints, failing to grasp basic resurrection truth. We go through seasons of life worried and despondent about present things. And we forget that our Savior lives and reigns sovereignly over it all.

Remember, Jesus has risen! We needn't live like people with no hope: God is good all the time! We possess glorious hope and blessed assurance of life with Jesus. Our God is executing a Kingdom plan that will make all things right for His people and His creation. Eternal life is just ahead. We will reign with Jesus in His Kingdom, with immortal bodies and a new earth that is joined to where God lives. (I recommend N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope* for more on this). And, for now, Jesus promises to be with you always as He sends us forth "to do the work [He] has given us to do, to love and serve as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord" (Post Communion Prayer).

LIVING OUT LENT

Jesus is risen, and our glorious end is secure! May this Easter truth give us the confidence to rest in God's love and boldness to share the message of hope that our Lord lives.

Tim Osterhaus is married to Kristina, and together with their four children, they have served in various ministries at St. Peter's for over a decade.

LENT AT THE CATHEDRAL

ASH WEDNESDAY

22 FEBRUARY

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*No Music or Communion*) | 7AM

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES | MUSIC (*No Communion*) | NOON

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES | MUSIC & COMMUNION | 7PM

JESUS'S FINAL WEEK: WALKING WITH JESUS THROUGH HOLY WEEK

MARCH 1-MARCH 29 (WEDNESDAY EVENINGS) | 6:15-7:30PM

A LENTEN STUDY LED BY FR. MICHAEL PETTY

CATHEDRAL CONCERT | MOZART'S REQUIEM

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | 5 MARCH | 7PM

STPETERSFL.COM/MOZART

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS | 6-6:30PM

24 FEBRUARY | 3 MARCH | 10 MARCH

17 MARCH | 24 MARCH | 31 MARCH

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY & TUESDAY

3 APRIL | 4 APRIL

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION | 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6 APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY | 7PM*

PRAYER VIGIL | 7PM-9AM

WEDNESDAY

5 APRIL

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE | 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY

7 APRIL

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN | 10AM

GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY | NOON*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 7PM*

HOLY SATURDAY

8 APRIL

HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY | NOON

EASTER VIGIL | 8:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

9 APRIL

9AM* | 11:15AM*

**childcare available*

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