“The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel.” Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did as the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And Samuel said to Jesse, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23 (sung)
1 The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; * and leads me beside still waters.
3 He revives my soul; * and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, * I shall fear no evil; *
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,* and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Ephesians 5:8-14
Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleepers, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Gradual Hymn 493
“O for a thousand tongues to sing”

The Gospel (standing)
John 9:1-41
As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? Is it your own sight he has opened? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How do you know whether he is of age? He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciple?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worship him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Sermon
The Reverend Jim Reed

The Nicene Creed

The Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing

The Peace

(The prayer request cards may be filled out and dropped in the collection plate.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Sanctus and Benedictus

(Service Music Booklet in pew rack)

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP 358

BCP 389

BCP 360

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

S-169

(Service Music Booklet in pew rack)

Ephesians 5:8-14

Now you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleepers, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The loose and undesignated offering goes to the Zion Shelter and Soup Kitchen.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing

BCP 365

Processional Hymn 490

“O for a thousand tongues to sing”

For more information, please visit our website at www.zionshelterandsoupkitchen.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 26: Sergio Ramirez

March 27: Keas Lynch, Yahir Resendiz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Please join us for this service to experience the last hours of Jesus’ life with your children and grandchildren. The service only lasts about thirty minutes.

Junior Choir
The Junior Choir is off to quite a start! This is a wonderful opportunity for the children of our church to develop some basic singing abilities as well as a love of and appreciation for music. If your children are not already participating I hope you will encourage them to give it a try! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Music Suite. Hopefully, you will hear our children singing in church before Easter Day!

Hey kids! Who wants to grow a garden?
This year we are planning an adventure of the leafy sort. We are currently in search of a team of green thumbs and vivid imaginations, to help us along our journey of growth, abundance and reflection as well. If this is a journey your child may like to be part of, please contact ann@saintpetersnc.org. Spring is near...


Stop Hunger Now Food Packaging Event, April 8th
Sign-up on the Main Street bulletin board to help package food on Saturday April 8th. We need lots of hands for this outreach project.

Teacher Appreciation at PS Jones Middle School
Remember your favorite teacher? You have a chance pay it forward. St. Peter’s is honoring the teachers of PS Jones Middle School during Teacher Appreciation Week. If you are available to help celebrate by bringing goodies to PS Jones Middle School on May 1 and/or May 3, please contact Sarah Ninan 252-721-0112.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 16th
Please bring in plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or snacks by Sunday 4/9. THANK YOU! The Easter Egg Hunt will be Easter Sunday following the 10:15am Service. Don’t forget your Easter basket!

Saint Peter’s is celebrating the love of Christ by reaching out and empowering for ministry.

Welcome to Saint Peter’s. Visitors and newcomers are encouraged to complete a welcome card from the pew rack. Please let us know who you are and allow us to greet you.