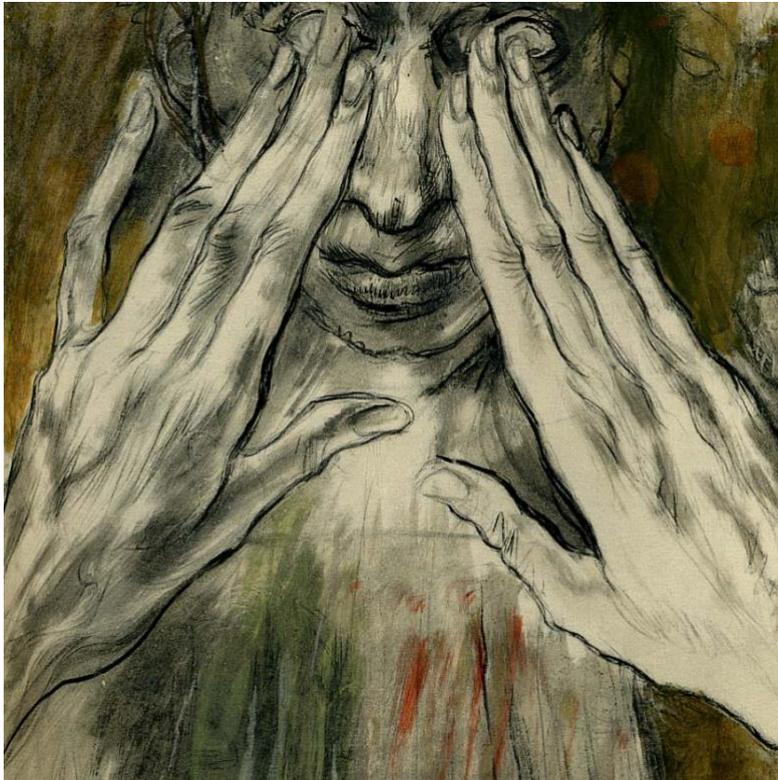


# St. Peter Episcopal Church

Began Meeting 1816 ~ Founded 1817

P.O. Box 357, 4901 Main Ave. Ashtabula, OH 44005

(440) 992-8100      [www.stpetersashtabula.org](http://www.stpetersashtabula.org)



*Bringing Hope to the Hopeless  
Feeding the Body and Spirit  
Making God Available to All*

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*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*Year A*

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

# Morning Prayer, Rite II

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 22, 2020

*The Officiant says*

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and reopens all evil. *Joel 2:13*

## **Confession of Sin**

*All kneel as you are able*

*The Officiant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Officiant stands and says*

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

## Invitatory and Psalter

*All stand.*

*Officiant*        Lord, open our lips.  
*People*            And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

### Psalm 95:1-7

*Venite*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
    and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
    and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
    and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
    and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
    and 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. \*  
    Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*The people are seated*

### Psalm 23

BCP p. 612

*Dominus regit me*

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; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed 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.

*After the Psalms, all say together*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

## **Readings**

*A period of silence will follow each reading.*

### **First Reading**

**I Samuel 16:1-13**

*All sit.*

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

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 what 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. The Lord said, "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.

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

*The following is recited by all*

## **Canticle 21                                      You Are God**

You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father:  
All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
    Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
    Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
    Father, of majesty unbounded,  
    Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
    and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
    Come then Lord, and help your people.  
    bought with the price of your own blood,  
    and bring us with your saints  
    to glory everlasting.

## **Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:8-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."  
”

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

## **Canticle 13**

## **A Song of Praise** *Benedictus es, Domine*

*Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;\*  
    you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;\*  
    we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;\*  
    on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;\*  
    we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;\*  
    in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;\*  
    we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **A Lesson from the Gospel of John, Chapter 9, verses 1-41**

As he 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? 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 then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; 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 disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but 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 worships 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.

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

## **Homily**

**The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen, III**

## **Apostles' Creed**

*All stand.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
    creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
    He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    and born of the Virgin Mary.  
    He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
    was crucified, died, and was buried.  
    He descended to the dead.  
    On the third day he rose again.  
    He ascended into heaven,  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
    He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
    the holy catholic Church,  
    the communion of saints,  
    the forgiveness of sins,  
    the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Officiant*           The Lord be with you.

*People*               And also with you.

*Officiant*           Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy Name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those

        who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Officiant and People say responsively*

**A.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### ***Collect of the Day***

*The Officiant then says*

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 forever. *Amen.*

### ***A Collect for Sundays***

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **Prayers of the People**

*Intercessor*

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the

unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city (town, village, \_\_\_\_\_), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those whom we carry in our heart this day \_\_\_\_\_.

*A brief silence*

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

*Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of [ \_\_\_\_\_ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*To thee, O Lord our God.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Officiant*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

### **Announcements**

*Announcements may be made at this point in the service.*

I ask that you please keep all the members of our congregation in your prayers and I ask that you continue to call and “check in” with not only those whom you know well, but also those with whom you are not so familiar. Letters and texts are a wonderful means of remembering each other.

The social distancing that we have undertaken will save lives in the long run. However, it can also stretch our patience and stress us. If you find yourself slipping into sadness or depression please reach out to your friends in the church community. Please reach out with whatever your need may be.

I also ask that you please keep up your pledges and gifts, as in this time of difficulty adding a cash flow problem at the church would add to our difficulties. Thank you for attending this issue. The safest way to mail them to the Church is at the following address:

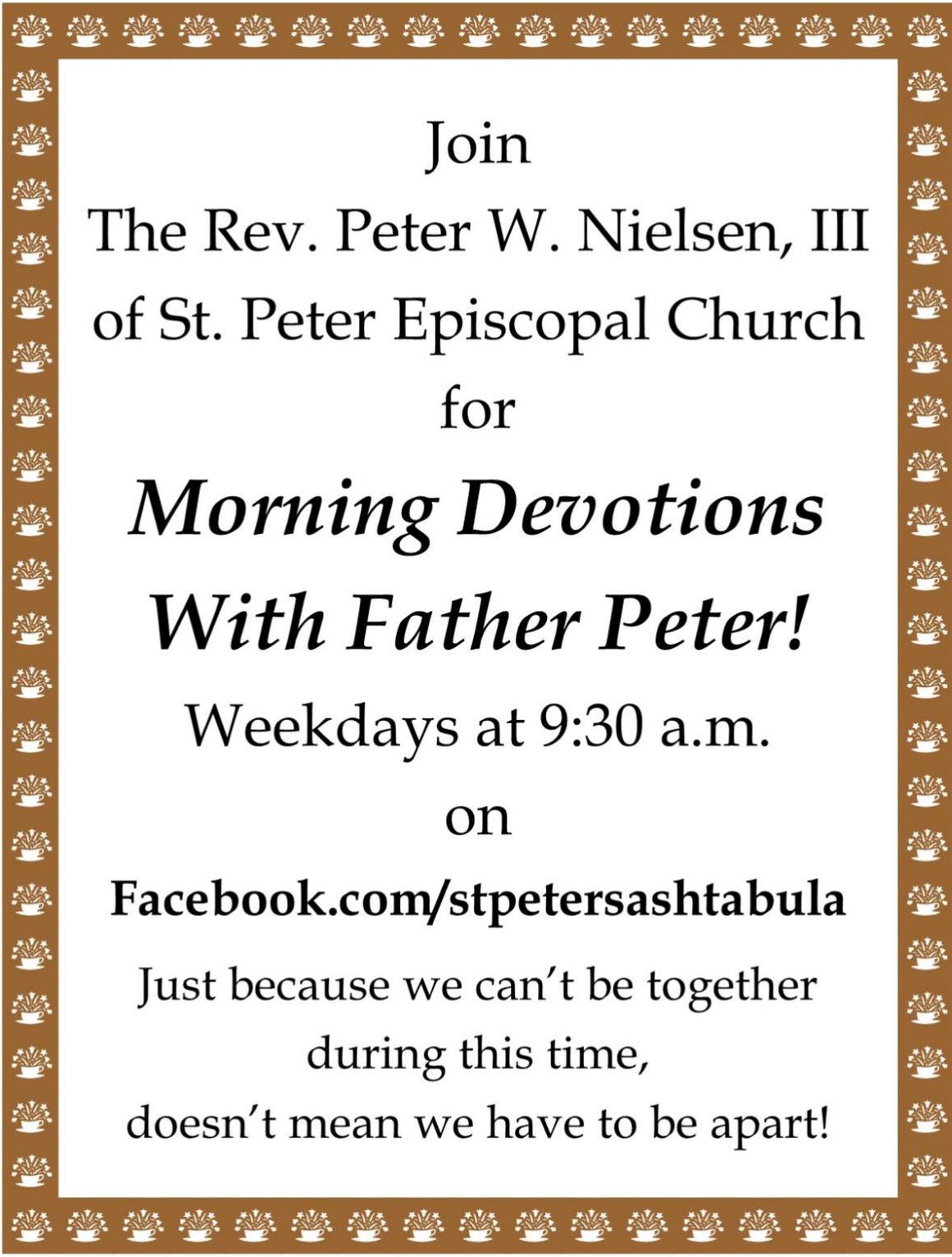
St. Peter Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 357  
Ashtabula, OH 44005

Please know that I am available by phone for pastoral concerns and will do my best under these very difficult circumstances to attend them. 1-440-479-3493

Stay in your homes ... stay safe ... and stay well.

May God bless you!

Fr. Peter



Join  
The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen, III  
of St. Peter Episcopal Church  
for

***Morning Devotions  
With Father Peter!***

Weekdays at 9:30 a.m.

on

**Facebook.com/stpetersashtabula**

Just because we can't be together  
during this time,  
doesn't mean we have to be apart!