

St. Peter's Sunday Worship Service

Our worship is centered around the Holy Eucharist and based in the Book of Common Prayer. (Eucharist means "thanksgiving," and is a commemoration of Christ's last supper, during which bread and wine are consecrated and shared.)

For the first-time visitor, our rituals, or "liturgy" may be a bit confusing, as we variously stand, sit, and kneel throughout the service. But clergy (and the service bulletin!) help lead newcomers through it without serious worry or embarrassment. There is no way to "do it wrong," and once "the dance" is learned, the observances become richly satisfying.

We praise God through song (during the 10 am service; the 8 am mass is without music) and prayer, listening to readings from the Bible: usually one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, something from the Epistles, and (always) a reading from the Gospels. The psalm is sung or recited by the congregation, accompanied by our able choir (at the 10 am service).

Next, a sermon is given, interpreting the readings appointed for the day, followed by the [Nicene Creed](#) or, on occasion, a similar affirmation of faith.

Our congregation prays together—for the Church, the world, and those in need. We pray for the sick, give thanks for blessings and pray for "those whom we love but no longer see." The priest (or occasionally, the bishop) concludes with a prayer as communal offering.

As a community, we acknowledge our sins before God and one another, confessing "what we have done and what we have left undone," and are assured of forgiveness when we sincerely repent: God is always ready to forgive us!

Parishioners and clergy greet one another with a blessing of peace, some announcements are made by clergy, an offering is gathered and we ready ourselves to receive the sacrament of the bread (Christ's body) and wine (his blood).

The Eucharistic (Communion) Prayer is read, as a brief story of our faith, from the beginning, through the coming of Jesus and his celebration of the first breaking of bread and drinking of wine, which we are called to continue.

At the end of the Eucharist, the congregation joins in a prayer of thanksgiving, and then is sent out, after a final, processional hymn, (again, at the 10 am service!) to be God's servants in the world.

Coffee hour follows the 10 am Eucharist in the Parish Hall, with fellowship, hot & cold drinks, and savory & sweet tidbits. You are welcome, always.