

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector
May/June 2025
<https://stpetersacc.org>

Fr. Seeley's Corner

There is a theme on these Sundays after Easter, and two examples of it.

A mystery: three things which are different, but which work together and thus become one. St. John begins it by going into the means of our salvation; Baptism in Jesus Christ. To make this point he makes a very mystical statement wherein he links the Old Testament with the New. He states that the water, which was important to in the Old Testament on account of ritual purity and the cleaning of the body that went on regularly in Judaism. St John states that the water is one with the blood. Jesus took this ritual bathing and incorporated it into His plan of salvation by having people wash their sins by bathing in the name of the Trinity. This ritual bath is only effective because Jesus shed His blood; thus John states that the blood and the water are one. He then goes on to state that the spirit is one with both the water and the blood. The Holy Spirit which acts when baptism takes place, and which inhabits the soul and reconciles the body to God, and begins the process of sanctification demonstrates that the water and blood would be of no use were it not for the spirit; thus John states that the water and the blood and the spirit are one - just like the Father, the Word, and the Spirit are one in heaven. Thus baptism works in our soul, a work of the Trinity and our souls become dwelling places for God.

The Sunday after Easter we see a continuation of this. Jesus comes into a room where His disciples are, and he greets them. Then He shows them his wounds, and then he gives them the power to absolve sins; a divine power which He had while He was on earth. Jesus manifests His divine power, but personally, and caringly; not as an explosion; the next explosion we will see will be at Pentecost. When it comes to Jesus' resurrection. There are two things which always fascinated me about the resurrection of Jesus.

First: Jesus comes to His disciples in very intimate ways. Like the healings He did while He was alive, His post-resurrection appearances are very personal. He comes into locked rooms, he joins some disciples on the road to Emmaus, he eats food in front of them to prove he's really alive. He insists that St. Thomas touch His wounds so that he might believe.

Second: Something I have always found fascinating is that the disciples didn't recognize Jesus. Mary does not recognize Him until he calls her name. The disciples are not sure it's Him at the beach, and the disciples on the road to Emmaus do not recognize Him at all.

I do not know exactly why this is the case, but I like to look at it like this: once you see things from a Christian point of view, you will see things differently than the world sees them. You will see things the world does not, and you will see things the world sees, but you will understand them differently. I think this is what is going on here. It is what St. John is talking about in the epistle. Three things which work together and thus act as one, while still being three.

If Jesus had not walked on earth as a man who appeared in sinful flesh, then he could not have died. If Jesus had not died, He could not have risen from the dead, no longer in sinful flesh, but in a resurrected body, which was free from corruption. And had Jesus not risen from the dead in incorruption, then He could not have ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father in glory.

If Jesus had not incarnated, he could not have died, and thus could not have resurrected, and thus could not have sat at the right hand of the Father in glory. So Jesus in sinful flesh, Jesus resurrected in His incorrupt body, and Jesus in glory are one – just as the water and the blood and the spirit are one.

Jesus when he walked upon the earth, when he rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples, and Jesus at the right hand of the Father, are all one; each fulfilling His will and purpose. This is what sets the stage for the Holy Ghost to complete the work begun by the incarnation.

So Jesus appearing in incorruption to show His disciples that he was risen incorrupt paves the way for His ascending and reigning, and the coming of the Holy Ghost. In the same way that the water which cleans the flesh, through the shedding of Jesus' blood means that the water, through the action of the spirit brings the cleansing of conscience through baptism.

So the First Sunday after Easter, we read that the water and the blood, and the spirit are one. And we see that Jesus in sinful flesh, Jesus in resurrection and incorruption, and Jesus at the right-hand of the Father, sending the Holy Ghost are one. Three things that are different, but which work together and thus become one. That brings us back to the foundation of our faith: the Trinity and with that, the power of God.

News and Information

May 4: Solemn Evensong & Benediction, 6 PM.

May 21: Vestry meeting at 7:30 PM, preceded by Mass at 7 PM.

May 28: the Vigil of the Ascension, Mass at 6 PM.

May 29: the Feast of the Ascension, Mass at 12 Noon and 6 PM.

June 8: Whitsunday/Pentecost, 8 am and 10 am Mass. Solemn Evensong & Benediction, 6 PM.

June 9: Monday in Whitsun Week, 6 PM.

June 10: Tuesday in Whitsun Week, 6 PM.

June 12-13: Diocesan Synod in Natural Bridge.

JUNE VESTRY MEETING TBD

June 19: Corpus Christi, 12 Noon Mass.

Going forward, we plan to have Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on First Sundays at 6 pm. The other Sunday evening prayers will not happen for the foreseeable future.

MAY, 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction				[1] 12 noon HC	[2]	[3]
[4] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 pm Evensong & Benediction EASTER II	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8] 12 noon HC	[9]	[10]
[11] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS EASTER III	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15] 12 noon HC	[16]	[17]
[18] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS EASTER IV	[19]	[20]	[21] 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[22] 12 noon HC	[23]	[24]
[25] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ROGATION SUNDAY	[26]	[27]	[28] 6:00 pm HC	[29] 12 noon HC 6:00 pm HC ASCENSION	[30]	[31]

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Coffee Hour	E. Paisley	C. Pappas	G. Terrell	S. Darby
Epistoler 8 a.m.	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney
Epistoler 10 a.m.	P. Williams	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	T. Paisley

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

JUNE, 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5] 12 noon HC	[6]	[7]
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS WHITSUNDAY	[9] 6:00 pm HC WHITSUN MONDAY	[10] 6:00 pm HC WHITSUN TUESDAY	[11]	[12] 12 noon HC	[13]	[14]
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY SUNDAY	[16]	[17]	[18]	[19] 12 noon HC CORPUS CHRISTI	[20]	[21]
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY I	[23]	[24]	[25]	[27] 12 noon HC	[27]	[28]
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY II	[30]	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction				

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Coffee Hour	C. Kurstedt	V. Williams	C. deRosset	L. Olver	B. Von Claparede
Epistoler 8 a.m.	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney
Epistoler 10 a.m.	P. Williams	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	P. Williams	T. Paisley

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

2025 Vestry (term end): Clemens Von Claparede (?27), Dan Drysdale (?27), George Mauney (?25), Mike Slayton (?25), George Terrell (?26), Vicki Williams (?26)