

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

July/August 2026

<https://stpetersacc.org>

Rector's Ramble (In and Out of Brambles)

July 4th Sermon

The following I have preached in the past on July 4th weekend, but not in this parish I do not think.

**Thy kingdom is an everlasting / kingdom, *
and thy dominion endureth throughout all / ages.**

In preparation for today's sermon, I decided to research the Homily, in three parts, called "Against Willful Rebellion." This Homily is from the Book of Homilies, appointed to be read from the English pulpits word for word during the reigns of Edward VI and Elizabeth I. The Homily "Against Willful Rebellion," as you might guess is specifically condemning rebelling against the English monarch. It equates the act of rebelling with the first sin in the Garden of Eden, with the sinfulness of Satan.

Of Rebellion, the Homily says, "If ... all subjects that mislike of their prince should rebel, no realm should ever be without rebellion." Point taken. It asks, "What if the prince be undiscreeet and evil indeed, and it also evident to all men's eyes that he so is? ... Shall you hear the Scriptures concerning this point? *God, say the holy Scriptures, maketh a wicked man to reign for the sins of the people. Again, God giveth a prince in his anger, meaning an evil one, and taketh away a prince in his displeasure . . .*" So, it is no surprise then, given this anti-Sedition theology, that by the end of the War for American Independence, many of the clergymen of the Church of England, the Established Church in many colonies before the Revolution, had fled to England or Canada. So, no wonder, "At the war's end, there were but five priests in New Jersey, four in Massachusetts, one in New Hampshire, and none in Rhode Island or Maine." But we quickly rallied again. After the Revolution, when the first bishops of the Episcopal Church got started, "[Bishop] Ravenscroft found four churches in North Carolina, and left twenty-seven. [Bishop] Moore found five clergymen in Virginia and left one hundred."

So is our United States left wholly without support from our Mother Church in England by her theology concerning our Revolution? The Homily describes lawful authority as "when mankind increased and spread itself more largely over the world, [God] by his holy word did constitute and ordain in cities and countries several and special governors and rulers, unto whom the residue of his people should be obedient." And also, concerning David's refusal to kill Saul, "let him live [saith good David] until God appoint and work his end, either by natural death, or in war by lawful enemies, not by traitorous subjects." Fair enough. But the Founding Fathers believed themselves to be the lawful authority duly elected in the colonies according the rules in the charters of those colonies granted by monarchs of England previous to King George, to which agreements King George should have been adhering.

What does the Declaration of Independence say? "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient

sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.”

What are *we* to do, beloved, now that we have found that the Freedom of America has given rise to what is contrary to the “Right” “to life,” namely, Abortion; What are we to do, beloved, when the marriage given between man and woman, the most natural acts of the Law of Nature and of Nature’s God, given us by Nature’s God in Paradise, is given equal rights with a supposed marriage which is contrary to Nature? What did we do when the children of our future were put under the knife when unwanted? We promoted adoption. And then what happened? - Those who are so-called married come and request, no, demand, the right to adopt the children who are unwanted but not aborted. When the Right of such People is now the majority in many States, what are we to do?

Many times during the War for Independence, the words from the Litany rang from the lips of those Churchmen fighting on the side of the United States, men like William White in the white sanctuary of Christ Church, Philadelphia, or George Washington in his pew there, or Francis Lightfoot Lee in Virginia. What did they pray then? After proclaiming themselves “miserable sinners” many times, they cried, “O God, merciful Father, who despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart . . . graciously hear us, that those evils which the craft and subtilty of the devil or man worketh against us, may, by thy good providence, be brought to nought; that we thy servants being hurt by no persecutions, may evermore give thanks unto thee in thy holy Church.” And here you are, beloved, on this peaceful July 4th weekend, but engaged, nevertheless, in a bloodless war called an “election year” and while many of our fellow parishes in America are engaged in a bloodless war in the Courts of Justice to preserve the way of worship and the values which this parish holds dear against the Tyranny of a synagogue of Satan given over to blessing those who wish to marry against the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.

I would not leave you hopeless without some practical advice. 1) Prayer. As the Homily *Against Willful Rebellion* states, “whether the prince be good or evil, let us, according to the counsel of holy Scriptures, pray for the prince; for his continuance and increase in goodness, if he be good, and for his amendment, if he be evil.” If we are concerned, let us assault heaven’s ears with prayer and like a Church Militant take the kingdom of heaven violently with petition and shake the rafters not of this holy house only but of that smoke-filled house above with our vibrant hymn singing. So often, I know full well, our minds are so disturbed by the times that the prayers do not come to us and for this we have in times of peace prepared for war, by pre-composing prayers for such an hour of evil. Remember that the Prayer Book is not to be set in some convenient place to be observed but never used. During the preceding week, at both of our retirement home services, I used the prayer “For Courts of Justice” on page 35 as the Supreme Court adjudicated. Oh that we would turn from wringing our hands to gently folding them in prayer! As Proverbs says, “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.” “Peace, be still” says our Lord. “Sleep is perfect prayer” said a Saint.

If possible, gather together to say a few prayers. The Prayer Book is not primarily a book of private devotion, but of common prayer and a means by which the faithful come together for mutual support and protection. As any civilized nation gathers together for mutuality, so does the Church. And like any civilized nation, it is helpful, nay, as Shakespeare wrote “It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe; For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom, Though war nor no known quarrel were in question, But that defences, musters, preparations, Should be maintain'd, assembled and collected, As were a war in expectation.” We arm ourselves by prayer for we are spiritual warriors and His Kingdom is not of this world and, yet, though He is enthroned elsewhere, we are promised that when two or three are gathered together commonly, so He is in the midst of us and His Kingdom becomes present on earth. Oh that we would learn that as the fish can not breathe without water and the natural man without air, so the spiritual man cannot breathe without prayer, let alone fight with all his might against the Lord of the Air and our ghostly enemy!

2) It is noticeable that the Homily *Against Willful Rebellion* says that one of the ways rebellious war violates the Ten Commandments is by taking people away from “assembling in [God’s] temple and church upon his day as becometh the Lord’s servants.” If we really love assembling together peacefully for a beautiful liturgy without persecution, then we must exercise that God-given and constitutional right. A weapon not used against the enemy will be taken from us and used against us *by* the enemy. I know there are many good reasons, such as work, why we do not make it to this temple every Sabbath. But, one wonders, if we had all been attending as we

ought, if 100% were attending on Sunday forty years ago, would we have ever started to have to work? Our idleness was used against us. 3) We should put away filthiness both of speech and idolatry on the internet. George Washington exhorted his army “that we can have little hopes of the blessing of Heaven on our Arms if we insult it with our impiety and folly.” And we as a Church Militant should do nothing less than assemble at the mandatory formations for military inspection on the Sabbath, having kept our mouths and eyes clean.

These are the small things that a righteous nation did to continue to be a righteous nation and to win their liberties of old from persecution and tyranny. We should do nothing less today. (I shall finish with a part of what was written and required to be prayed following the Homily *Against Willful Rebellion*.)

Let us pray.

O Most mighty God, the Lord of hosts, the Governor of all creatures, the only Giver of all victories, who alone art able to strengthen the weak against the mighty, and to vanquish infinite multitudes of thine enemies with the countenance of a few of thy servants calling upon thy Name, and trusting in thee . . .

Withstand the cruelty of those which be common enemies as well to the truth of thy eternal word, as to their own . . . country . . .

Lighten, we beseech thee, their ignorant hearts to embrace the truth of thy word: or else so abate their cruelty, O most mighty Lord, that this our Christian region, with others that confess thy holy Gospel, may obtain by thine aid and strength surety from all enemies without shedding of Christian blood; whereby all they which be oppressed with their tyranny may be relieved, and they which be in fear of their cruelty may be comforted; and finally that all Christian realms . . . may by thy defence and protection continue in the truth of the Gospel, and enjoy perfect peace, quietness, and security; and that we for these thy mercies, jointly all together with one consonant heart and voice, may thankfully render to thee all laud and praise; that we, knit in one godly concord and

unity amongst ourselves, may continually magnify thy glorious Name; who, with thy son our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, art one eternal, almighty, and most merciful God. To whom be all laud and praise world without end. Amen.

News and Announcements

July 22nd: Vestry 7:30 PM, Mass preceding at 7 PM.

NO VESTRY IN AUGUST

August 6th: Holy Transfiguration, Mass 12 Noon.

August 9th (not July 26th): Bishop Johnson's Parish Visit.

August 9th: Tentative Parish Picnic

JULY, 2026						
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]	[2] 12 noon HC	[3]	[4]
[5] No services TRINITY V	[6]	[7]	[8] 6:00 pm HC	[9] 12 noon HC	[10]	[11]
[12] 8:00 a.m. MP 10:00 a.m. MP TRINITY VI	[13]	[14]	[15] 6:00 pm HC	[16] 12 noon HC	[17]	[18]
[19] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY VII	[20]	[21]	[22] 7:00 pm HC 7:30 pm Vestry	[23] 12 noon HC	[24]	[25]
[26] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY VIII	[27]	[28]	[29] 6:00 pm HC	[30] 12 noon HC		

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

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

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Coffee Hour	No services	L. Olver	V. Williams	G. Terrell
Epistoler 8 a.m.	No services	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	No services	P. Williams	G. Terrell	T. Paisley

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

AUGUST, 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[30] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY XIII	[31]	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]
[2] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction TRINITY IX	[3]	[4]	[5] 6:00 pm HC	[6] 12 noon HC	[7]	[8]
[9] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE Bishop's visit TRINITY X	[10]	[11]	[12] 6:00 pm HC	[13] 12 noon HC	[14]	[15]
[16] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY XI	[17]	[18]	[19] 6:00 pm HC	[20] 12 noon HC	[21]	[22]
[23] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY XII	[24]	[25]	[26] 6:00 pm HC	[27] 12 noon HC	[28]	[29]

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

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

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Coffee Hour	M. Slayton	B. Von Claparede	S. Darby	C. Kurstedt	C. Pappas
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	C. Von Claparede	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	P. Williams	T. Paisley	G. Terrell

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