



May 25, 2026
Memorial Day Service of Remembrance
9:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

Welcome to St. Peter's Church

We are glad you are joining us today.

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans – the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays. (Taken from US Dept. of Veterans Affairs: *History of Memorial Day*, www.va.gov)

WHY DO WE PRAY FOR THE DEAD?

We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 862)

MINISTERS FOR THIS SERVICE

All God's People, including:

The Rev. David Michaud *Celebrant*

Richard Stratton *Guest Organist*

Jimmy Hill *Eucharistic Minister*

Susan Cabral & Jimmy Hill *Altar Guild*

LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. PETERS: Please, scan or use link below for information about St. Peter's Church, including the history of the church, staff & Vestry, service times, ministries, church calendar & much more.

<https://stpeterschurch.net>



The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

— THE WORD OF GOD —

Prelude

Processional Hymn 717 *My Country 'Tis of Thee*

Opening Acclamation - *Please stand*

BCP 355

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Kyrie

BCP 356

The Collect of the Day - Thanksgiving for Heroic Service

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lessons - *Please be seated.*

A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-5, 9)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. 3

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (6:10-20)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Sequence Hymn 608 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel: John (15:9-13)

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The Sermon

The Very Rev. David Michaud

The Prayers of the People - Please kneel

Leader: Almighty God, we enter into this Memorial Day surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses. We remember, first of all, the women and men who are currently serving in the armed forces and we pray for their safe return.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

We also acknowledge that there are women and men who will not return, as we grieve their passing in our prayers. We pause to honor their service and their sacrifice.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

We also pause this hour to give thanks for all the women and men who have served in the nation's armed services.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Those who have not served cannot fully imagine the experience of war, but we do know war's aftermath and the toll that it can take on the human heart. This day remembers and acknowledges loss and so do we remember those whom we have loved and lost. We hold their names and their faces in our mind's eye, especially those named now.

A Memorial list of names is read

We recall the gifts all of those who died in service to this nation gave to us through the strength of their being, the depth of their love, the courage of their dying, and the fullness of their living. In the Holy Quiet of this hour, their names surround us and they live with us in blessed memory. May we remain together in silence, as a tribute to all that they have meant to us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant: God the King of Glory, in whose hands are the living and the dead: We give you thanks for all those who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant them your mercy and the light of your presence; give us a sense of your will and purpose that we may understand that the work you have begun in them will be perfected through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, in whom all strife is resolved.

People: Amen.

The Peace - *Please stand*

BCP 360

— THE HOLY COMMUNION —



To make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code.

The Presentation of Gifts - *Please stand.*

Hymns at the Offertory

380 *From All that Dwell Below The Skies (vs.3)*

720 *The Star Spangled Banner*

Sanctus - S128



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Breaking of the Bread - *Please sit or kneel.*

If you are not baptized, or do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating that desire by crossing your arms across your chest at the rail.

Communion Hymn 312 *Strengthen For Service*

The Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn 718 *God of our Fathers*

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Postlude

Thank you for being part of our congregation this morning.



**ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Salisbury, Maryland

Founded 1768

To Know and Share the Love of Christ

