

St. Peter's Anglican Church
Loveland, CO

HOLY EUCHARIST
First Sunday of Christmas

WELCOME
IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST



December 28, 2025

Prelude

Processional: Once In Royal David's City - H #38

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feeleth for all our sadness,
And he shareth in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Thro' his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born,

People: **Unto us a son is given.**

***All:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Deacon/Priest: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
- Matthew 22:37-40

The Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria: Angels We Have Heard On High – H #27

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Collect for the Day

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(The people may sit.)

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:5

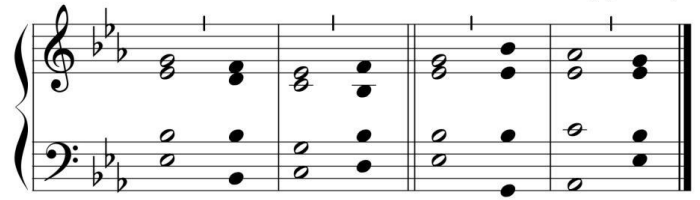
10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



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Psalm 147: 12-20 *Laudate Dominum*

- 12 Praise the Lord, O Je | rusalem; |
praise your God, O | Zion. ||
- 13 For he has made strong the bars of your | gates |
and has blessed your children with | in you. ||
- 14 He makes peace in your | borders |
and fills you with the finest of | wheat. ||
- 15 He sends forth his commandment upon the | earth,|
and his word runs very | swiftly. ||
- 16 He gives snow like | wool |
and scatters the white frost like | ashes. ||
- 17 He casts forth his ice like | crumbs; |
who is able to abide his | frost? ||
- 18 He sends out his word and | melts them; |
he blows with his wind, and the waters | flow. ||
- 19 He declares his word unto | Jacob, |
his statutes and ordinances unto | Israel. ||

(repeat second half of chant)

- 20 He has not dealt so with other | nations; |
neither have they knowledge of his laws.
Praise the | Lord. ||

*All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and/ to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for/ever A-men.*

The Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-4:7

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is

neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

4 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

O Little Town of Bethlehem – H #61 (V. 1, 2, 3)

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessing of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still
The Dear Christ enters in.

Deacon or Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

O Little Town of Bethlehem – H #61 (V. 5)

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

The Sermon

Deacon or Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

(Please kneel, stand, or sit as you are able.)

Prayers of the People

Deacon or Priest: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

Intercessor: For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope

of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For our Archbishop, Steve Wood; for our Bishops, Todd Hunter and Brian Wallace; for our Rector, Father Matt Rucker, and for our assisting clergy: Father Bill Easterling, and Deacon Larry Doyle. We pray also for our Seminarian, Joel, and for those in formation and discernment, Seth and Anthony.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our President, Donald, and our Governor, Jared. Give them a discerning heart and a wise mind to lead and serve as God desires.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, naming especially those who grieve the loss of someone they love during this Christmas season, and those who through illness or adversity are unable to be with us tonight.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

(Additional petitions may be made during this moment of silence.)

Deacon or Priest: Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Deacon or Priest: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *I Timothy 1:15*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *I John 2:1-2*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And with your spirit.

The Offering

“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”.

Ephesians 5:2

(Please stand as you are able.)

Lully, Lullay – H #176

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye-bye, lully lullay.*

O sisters, too,
How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling
For whom we sing
Bye-bye, lully lullay?

Herod the King,
In his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And every morn and day,
For thy parting
Nor say nor sing
Bye-bye, lully lullay?

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye-bye, lully lullay.*

The Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

People: And of your own have we given you.

I Chronicles 29:11, 14

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(Proper Preface) Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus – S # 130

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

(The people may kneel, stand, or sit.)

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

(Please kneel or stand as you are able.)

Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Agnus Dei – S # 164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(You may kneel, stand, or sit during Communion.)

Communion Hymns

Love Came Down at Christmas – Rosetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and others,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing – H #54

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy and of great mirth,
Tidings of our dear Savior's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
Gaining for us our liberty?

From out the darkness have we light,
Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness have we light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
“Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

He Is Born, The Divine Christ Child – H #48

Chorus:

*He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play on the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child;
Sing we all of the Saviour mild.*

Thro' long ages of the past,
Prophets have foretold his coming;
Thro' long ages of the past
Now the time has come at last! *(Chorus)*

O how lovely, O how pure.
Is this perfect child of heaven!
Oh, how lovely, oh, how pure
Gracious gift of God sent down! *(Chorus)*

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Grant to us Thy heav'nly peace. *(Chorus)*

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional: Angels From The Realms Of Glory – H # 75

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light; *(Refrain)*

Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star; *(Refrain)*

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear; *(Refrain)*

The Dismissal

Deacon or Priest: Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements for This Week – December 28, 2025

Next Evensong is Wednesday, January 7, at 7 PM

Lenten Soup and Poetry Groups

During the season of Lent, St. Peter's will have small groups meet to read and discuss sacred poetry over soup and bread. If you are interested in leading a small group, or being part of a small group, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the narthex, contact the office, or Fr. Matt.

Volunteers Needed for Livestream Team

We're looking for a few individuals who would like to help with our church's sound & livestream. No prior experience is needed (but you do need a smartphone)—training will be provided! If you're interested in serving or want to learn more, please contact Adam DeLorme after service or at 970.290.7042

Slammin' Famine Is Coming Soon! February 14, 2026, from 12 noon - 2 p.m.!

St. Peter's Anglican is again planning to be "Slammin Famine" at the Ranch Events Center in Loveland in February! Slammin' Famine has set their Loveland Packing event for the weekend of February 13-15, 2026. We have submitted our application as a sponsor group and have been scheduled for Saturday, February 14! Our shift will be from 12 noon until 2 p.m. We have asked for 20 spaces for St. Peter's. The shift includes a brief orientation, packing meal packages with ingredients that have staved off starvation for millions worldwide (Including Disaster Areas in the U.S.!), and a quick clean-up for the next shift after us. Most importantly each shift has the opportunity to offer prayers for the efforts of this congregation, organization, and all who have a hand making sure the meals reach those in need.

Kathy Porter will head up taking reservations for volunteers. She can be reached at 970-217-3331 or leadmaremom@yahoo.com.

2026 Calendars Available

The 2026 ACNA Church Year Guide is available for sale in the Narthex for \$3.00/each.

EVERY WEEK:

Wednesday Bible Study – Bible Study at St. Peter's at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays

Thursday Bible Study – Bible Study over *ZOOM* at 7:00 AM on Thursdays