

# **Welcome to St. John's Church**



## **The Second Sunday of Easter**

*April 11, 2021*

*10:00 a.m.*

*The health and safety of our congregation and community remains the highest concern of St. John's. While closed to the public in the midst of this pandemic, we continue to 'live stream' our Worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page and our St. John's Facebook page*

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)**

*The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God  
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

**Prelude**

*Easter Hymns*

from the 1940 Hymnal

**Opening Hymn # 206** *O Sons And Daughters, Let Us Sing*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

- 1 O sons and daughters, let us sing!  
The King of heaven, the glorious King,  
o'er death and hell rose triumphing.  
Alleluia!*
- 2 That night the apostles met in fear;  
amidst them came their Lord most dear,  
and said, "My peace be on all here."  
Alleluia!*
- 3 When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
how they had seen the risen Lord,  
he doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia!*
- 4 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see;  
my hands, my feet, I show to thee;  
not faithless, but believing be."  
Alleluia!*
- 5 No longer Thomas then denied,  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.  
Alleluia!*
- 6 How blest are they who have not seen,  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant may say*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* ***Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!***

*The Celebrant says*

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.***

## **The Gloria S # 280**

***Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

*INTRODUCTION: In this reading we hear of the enthusiasm and spirit of sharing and caring for one another in the early Christian community.*

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
The Word of the Lord.

*People*            ***Thanks be to God.***

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.*

### **Psalm 133**

***1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!***

***2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,***

***3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.***

***4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.***

***5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.***

*INTRODUCTION: In this letter, the author testifies and affirms what the early Christian community saw and heard with their own eyes and ears.*

## **A Reading from the First Letter of John:**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

*The Word of the Lord.*

*People            Thanks be to God.*

## **Gradual Hymn # 174**

*At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our victorious King,  
who hath washed us in the tide  
flowing from his piercèd side;  
praise we him, whose love divine  
gives his sacred Blood for wine,  
gives his Body for the feast,  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*
- 2 Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,*

*Paschal victim, Paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

*INTRODUCTION: Our gospel reading presents two appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples. The first on Easter Sunday when the Apostle Thomas was not present, and the second the following Sunday when he was there.*

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according St. John**

*People            Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*People            Praise to thee, O Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

**Easter Sermon Series (part 2)**

### **The Witnesses of the Resurrection**

*"The Doubting Thomas: Revealing Our Scars"*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

In the Paschal mystery, God established the new covenant of reconciliation. In thanksgiving for our baptismal fellowship, let us offer our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

+ In thanksgiving for those whose generosity exceeds our understanding, and through whom the needs of others are satisfied; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

+ In thanksgiving for those who seek peace throughout the world, and unity amongst the churches, especially Suheil, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Fr. Geoff, our priest, and all the members of this parish, that together we may lift the light that overcomes darkness, and the love that no weapon can destroy; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

+ For the courage to acknowledge our sinful desires and actions, our pride and self-sufficiency, our worship of false gods; that in admitting our sins our hearts may be filled with mercy to forgive others; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

+ For the leaders of the nations of the world, especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, for the members of our Congress and Courts that they may touch the wounds of the most vulnerable in our midst and feel moved to attend to the needs of the poor, the malnourished, the abused, and the isolated; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

+ That parents and teachers may be given the insight to make wise decisions for the life of our children, and be strengthened to share their faith from generation to generation; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

+ For those for whom the Pascal Light brings hope in the midst of persecution, imprisonment, despair, instability, and violence, and who joyfully praise God in the midst of their troubles, that we may learn from their faith; especially in the midst of this pandemic, remembering especially Mary Jo Keating, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery, Joan Beattie, and Ken Hecken; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***



+ For those who have died, remembering especially the more than 550,000 Americans that have fallen to this virus, that they may be welcomed into the place of eternal life; let us pray to the Lord.

***Hear us, O risen Christ.***

With God's grace as our strength, let us be of one heart and soul as we pause now so that all may add their own prayers and petitions, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst; (*pause for a moment*).

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

***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.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory**            *Jesus Triumphant*

Stradella

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*            ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People*            ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

*Celebrant and People*

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

***Hosanna in the highest.***

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

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: 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 for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

***We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, our Patron and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

***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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

*The Gifts of God for the People of God.*

## **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*Celebrant and People*

*In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

*Let us pray.*

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

*Eternal God, heav enly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing*

The peace of God, which surpasses 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 Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Closing Hymn # 209**                      *We Walk By Faith, And Not By Sight*

- 1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
no gracious words we hear  
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke;  
but we believe him near.*
- 2 We may not touch his hands and side,  
nor follow where he trod;  
but in his promise we rejoice,  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"*
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound,  
to call on you when you are near,  
and seek where you are found:*
- 4 that, when our life of faith is done,  
in realms of clearer light  
we may behold you as you are,  
with full and endless sight.*

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People*                      ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

**Postlude**                      *You Shall Go Out With Joy*

Douglas Wagner

**Music notes.** Many people have asked who are three vocal soloists are and this week I would like to tell you about Melissa Schipul. Melissa and I met in November, 1996 when she joined the choir of St. John's, New Milford. I was their organist. She made a major difference. Eventually she joined St. Andrew's, Kent, and when the Sherman Chamber Ensemble began their very popular Messiah Sing-In's, Melissa was the mezzo soloist.

If one good thing has come out of Covid-19 it is Melissa's being available to sing for us at St. John's, Washington. Having scheduled her to sing Bach and Handel in December, she rescued us three weekends prior when other singers had to cancel.

Melissa owns "*The Weekly Weeder.*" As she tells it: " I jokingly like to say that in August of 1985 I traded my hobby and my profession for my profession and my hobby after seven very difficult years teaching public school music. I am winding down my very successful and enjoyable career in landscape maintenance and continue to enjoy making music for fun". *Jon*

## **ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**78 Green Hill Road  
Washington, CT 06793**

### **Worship Ministers Today:**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Madison LaFontan, *Soloist*

Justin Ormand, *Reader*

Joseph Claro, *Veejay (VJ)*

Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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### **St. John's Website:**

<http://stjohnswashington.com/>

### **St. John's Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

### **St. John's YouTube Page:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>