

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

10:00 a.m.

***In-person worship will resume on
Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m.***

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. We will 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 *All Nature Sings and For The Beauty Of The Earth* Alfred Fedak

Opening Hymn # 291 *We Plow The Fields, And Scatter*

*1 We plow the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.
All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

*2 He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.*

Refrain

*3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food:
the gifts we have to offer
are what thy love imparts,
but chiefly thou desirest
our humble thankful hearts.*

Refrain

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: King Herod begins to persecute the leaders of the early church. James, the son of Zebedee is killed. Peter is arrested, but miraculously escapes.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came

to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, "Tell this to James and to the believers." Then he left and went to another place. When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death."

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 98

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to
judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

INTRODUCTION: In this reading, Paul hands down to his followers the teachings passed down to him, including a list of early witnesses to the Resurrection.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (that is, Peter), then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn # 581 *Where Charity And Love Prevail*

- 1*** ***Where charity and love prevail
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love
by love are we thus bound.***
- 3*** ***Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.***
- 4*** ***Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.***

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

INTRODUCTION: Our gospel today is the story of Jesus walking on water, and of Peter sinking.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Easter Sermon Series (part 6)

The Witnesses of the Resurrection

"Peter And The Five Hundred: Intimate Forgiveness"

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

Let us join in the Easter alleluias as we offer our prayers to the Risen One, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

+ For a renewal of Christian faith and practice throughout the world, that the spiritual treasures of our inheritance may inspire conversion from those who do not now believe, and a renewed commitment from those who have strayed from the faith and its expression in the life of the Church; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may reflect Jesus' sacrificial love, and reveal his generosity through our giving to the relief of the orphan and widow, the abused and unemployed, the homeless and working poor, the wealthy who hunger for family and friends, and all who walk in the shadows of hope; remembering especially the work of the Washington Council of Congregations, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For the strength to obey God's commandments, and to receive the strong voices that proclaim our marvelous faith, remembering 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; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For 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, and all who exercise civil authority in nations and local governments around that world, that truth and integrity may prevail in all their deliberations; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we will honor Jesus' friendship through our willingness to receive all that he has taught us about loving our neighbors and caring for the sick and suffering, and to take seriously his call to learn all that the Father has given to him; remembering all who are ill, 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.

+ That God's comfort may console those who have lost loved ones, especially the families and friends of the more than 3 million people who have died throughout the world from this corona virus, that God may resurrect all who have departed this life in the faith of the resurrection; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

We continue our prayers, knowing that Jesus has given us gifts too numerous to mention and has appointed us to bear much fruit. So we pause now 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.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. ***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 Solo: *Sing Ye A Joyful Song*

Dvořak

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 # 292 *O Jesus, Crowned With All Renown*

***1 O Jesus, crowned with all renown,
since thou the earth hast trod,
thou reignest and by thee come down
henceforth the gifts of God.
Thine is the health and thine the wealth
that in our halls abound,
and thine the beauty and the joy
with which the years are crowned.***

*2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and
and winds and dews be given;
all fostering power, all influence sweet,
breathe from the bounteous heaven.
Attemper fair with gentle air
the sunshine and the rain,
that kindly earth with timely birth
may yield her fruits again:
3 that we may feed the poor aright,
and, gathering round thy throne,
here, in the holy angels' sight,
repay thee of thine own:
That we may praise thee all our days,
and with the Father's Name,
and with the Holy Spirit's gifts,
the Savior's love proclaim.*

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

Miles Lane

Healey Willan

MUSIC NOTES: This month Melissa and Madison will sing two of the ten *Biblical Songs* by Dvorak. They were written in March 1894 when Dvorak was here in “the new world”, yearning for home. I chose the two spirited ones. The other eight are achingly poignant. Dvorak wrote them in Czech and carefully monitored the German and English translations.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*
Jon Lafleur, *Organist*
Melissa Schipul, *Soloist*
Laura Daly, *Reader*
Joseph Claro, *Veejay (VJ)*
The Flower Guild, *Altar Flowers*
MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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