

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday After Ascension Day

May 16, 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 *Giga* Henry Burgess the Younger
 Angelus Léon Boëllman

Opening Hymn # 214 *Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise*

- 1** Hail the day that sees him rise
glorious to his native skies;
Christ, awhile to mortals given,
enters now the highest heaven!
Alleluia!*
- 2** There the glorious triumph waits;
lift your heads, eternal gates!
Wide unfold the radiant scene;
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!*
- 3** See! he lifts his hands above;
See! he shows the prints of love:
Hark! his gracious lips bestow,
blessings on his Church below.
Alleluia!*
- 4** Lord beyond our mortal sight,
raise our hearts to reach thy height,
there thy face unclouded see,
find our heaven of heavens in thee.
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.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: Saul on his way to arrest followers of Jesus has a conversion experience on the road to Damascus..

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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 1

*1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!*

*2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.*

*3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.*

*4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.*

*5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.*

*6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.*

INTRODUCTION: Paul provides the earliest list of those to whom Jesus appeared after his Resurrection.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians:

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 215 *See The Conqueror Mounts In Triumph*

*1 See the Conqueror mounts in triumph;
see the King in royal state,
riding on the clouds, his chariot,
to his heavenly palace gate!
Hark! the choirs of angel voices
joyful alleluias sing,
and the portals high are lifted
to receive their heavenly King.*

*3 Thou hast raised our human nature
on the clouds to God's right hand:
there we sit in heavenly places,
there with thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne;
mighty Lord, in thine ascension,
we by faith behold our own.*

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel Jesus prays for his disciples shortly before his death, asking for their unity and sanctification in the truth.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy

Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Easter Sermon Series (part 7)

The Witnesses of the Resurrection

“Paul, One Untimely Born”

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

The King of glory has exalted his Son with great triumph to his heavenly kingdom. May our hearts rise to the place where he resides as we offer our prayers and thanksgivings, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us O risen Christ."

+ That our Church may increase in membership and spiritual vitality, knowing that God has given us eternal life, and that this life is alive today in the life of the baptized; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For unity amongst interfaith religious communities, that we may respect our various traditions as we work together to respond to the needs of the poor, to support those suffering from anxiety and depression, and to awaken hope in those who do not trust the future; especially those suffering in the midst of this pandemic, and also 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 the leaders of our Church, especially Hosam, 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, may be sanctified in humility and truth so that their work may

overcome the power of evil, and their message strengthen the voices of the faithful; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For an end to the tyranny that suppresses the healthy growth of nations, and the domination that is fueled by self-interest, power, and fanaticism; praying especially 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 let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For all who have died in the midst of battle, especially the innocent victims of war, and for all the departed, especially the 3 ½ million people who have died from this pandemic, that God will have mercy on their souls; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That with love and reverence we may tend to this fragile earth, a tiny island in an ever-expanding universe, bequeathing its fruits to those who follow; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, whose power we receive and await, 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 God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through 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 Hymn # 203

When Christ Was Lifted From The Earth

- 1 When Christ was lifted from the earth,
his arms stretched out above
through every culture, every birth,
to draw an answering love.*
- 2 Still east and west his love extends
and always, near or far,
he calls and claims us as his friends
and loves us as we are.*
- 3 Where generation, class, or race
divide us to our shame,
he sees not labels but a face,
a person, and a name.*
- 4 Thus freely loved, though fully known,
may I in Christ be free
to welcome and accept his own
as Christ accepted me.*

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. Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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 # 494 *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

1 ***Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns***

*all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.*

*2 Crown him the Son of God
before the worlds began,
and ye, who tread where he hath trod,
crown him the Son of man;
who every grief hath known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.*

*3 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.*

*4 Crown him of lords the Lord,
who over all doth reign,
who once on earth, the incarnate Word,
for ransomed sinners slain,
now lives in realms of light,
where saints with angels sing
their songs before him day and night,
their God, Redeemer, King.*

*5 Crown him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King, to whom is given
the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns,
as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,
for he is King of all.*

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

Darwall

Healey Willan

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*
Sara Coles, *Reader*
Laura Daly, *Veejay (VJ)*
The Flower Guild, *Altar Flowers*
Sarah Lee Martin, Diana Hardee, *Geraniums on the church steps*
MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website:

<http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

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

St. John's YouTube Page:

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