

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Martyrdom Of St. Stephen, Jacques Stella c.1623

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

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

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's YouTube Page:

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Children's activity bags are available on the bench by the Baptistry.
Please return them after the Service.*

Choral Prelude *Tanto Tempore* Teodoro Riccio (c.1540-1600)

Translation: *Have I been so long a time with you and have you not known me? Philip, he that seeth me seeth the (my) Father also. Alleluia. Do you not believe, that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? Alleluia.*

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 182 *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing, His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

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# 278

Glory to God

Mathias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-

ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: A deacon of the church, Stephen, preaches salvation history before the high priest and the council, culminating in a vision of Jesus standing at God's right hand..

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the

heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain

Refrain



You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

INTRODUCTION: This reading presents a series of images from the Old Testament, describing Christians as a chosen people called by God to God's service.

A Reading from the First Epistle of Peter (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a

holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn # 457 *Thou Art the Way to Thee Alone*

1 Thou art the Way, to thee a-lone from sin and death we flee;
 2 Thou art the Truth, thy word a-lone true wis-dom can im-part;
 3 Thou art the Life, the rend-ing tomb pro-claims thy con-quer-ing arm;
 4 Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that way to know,
 and all who would the Fa-ther seek, must seek him, Lord, by thee.
 thou on-ly canst in-form the mind and pu-ri-fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e-ter-nal flow.

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel passage Jesus speaks with his disciples shortly before his passion and tells them that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to St. John (14:1-14)

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Rector

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 call upon God to hear our prayers and to grant us those things that are in accord with the divine will, responding, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ For Christians who are imprisoned and persecuted for their faith that, like Stephen, they may follow the light that casts out all fear; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may do the works that Jesus revealed in his ministry, the healing of the sick, the raising up of the lowly, the giving of sight to the blind, and the blessing of the poor and the grieving; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For those who are spiritually lost, or who question their faith, or whose souls are wrapped in the shadows of doubt, that they may share their misgivings with Jesus, who gently unfolds the truth and reveals a way; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That the Church, the community of the baptized, may vigorously proclaim the alleluias of Easter, revealing the light of Christ, whose victory over death breaks

the chains of darkness and despair; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for the beauty that is set before our eyes, and for the mysteries yet unseen, that we may honor the expansiveness of creation and be guardians of its splendor; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for missionaries throughout the world, who reveal God's Word in challenging times and places; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That the Lord may comfort those in the waning days of life, and bring to life eternal those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

As a chosen people who share the royal priesthood of Christ, let us add to these petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O Almighty God, who didst give to thy servant Stephen boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of the same our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever
Amen.

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of God 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 Anthem *O Taste and See* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text: *O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one that trusteth in God.*

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the 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:

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer

Sanctus

Messa à 4

Giovanni Paolo Cima (c.1570-1610)

*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.

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;***

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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, 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.***

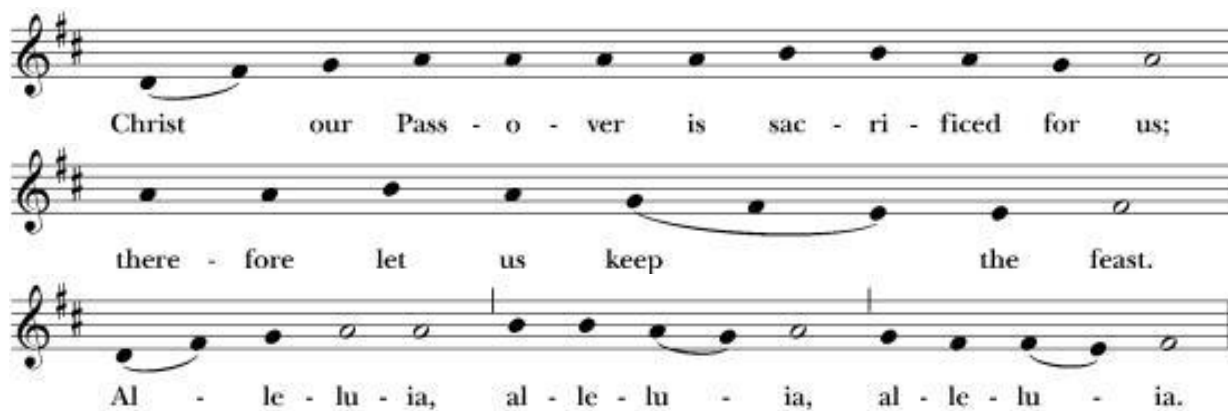
***Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.***

***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 S # 154

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.





Agnus Dei *Messa à 4* Giovanni Paolo Cima (c.1570-1610)

Translation: *O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation.

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.

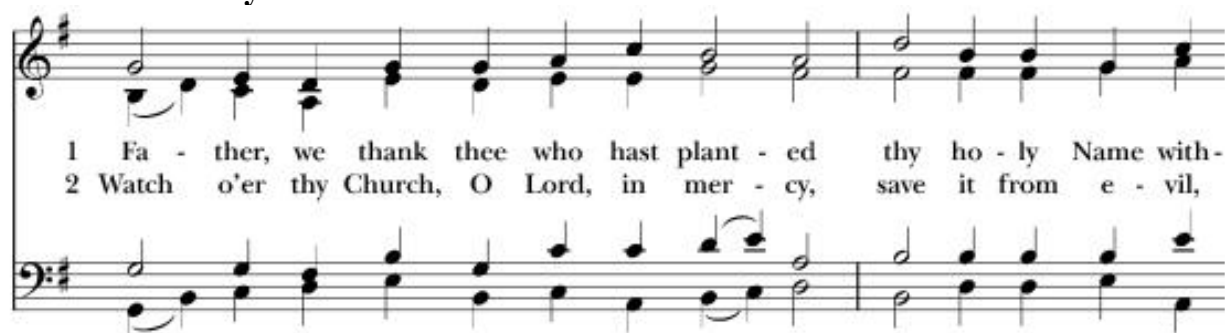
All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

INSTRUCTIONS: Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest so to indicate.

Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask at the altar rail if you wish one.

If you need to receive Communion in the pews, just let the ushers know.

Communion Hymn # 302 *Father We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted*



in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy
guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con-

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Eternal God, heavenly 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn # 525 *The Church's One Foundation*

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

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

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

Organ Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

John Magee: *Reader at 8:00 a.m.*

Michael Del Nin, MJ Del Nin: *Readers at 10:00 a.m.*

Rebecca Bent: *Chalicer*

Laura Daly: *Veejay (VJ)*

MB Witt, Susie Magee: *Altar Guild*

Karen Saxe, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers*

Corinne Johnson: *Coffee Hour Hostess*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry

Mary Davis, Susan McFeeley: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Karen Saxe: *Clerk*

Class of 2026

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Robert Reynolds

Class of 2027

Rebecca Bent, Worth Bracken, Michael Del Nin

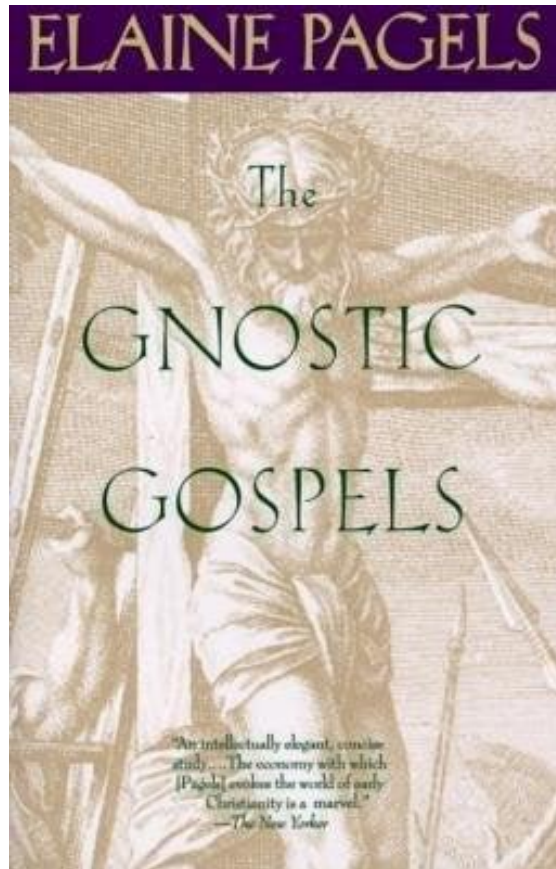
Class of 2028

Rod Pleasants, Leslie Weigel, MB Witt

Diocesan Delegates: *Sara Coles, MB Witt, Alternate: Laura Daly*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Elaine Pagels'
“The Gnostic Gospels”



*starting Friday, May 8th
10:30 a.m. in the Parish Library*

Fr. Geoff, our Rector, leads a serious weekly study of the Christian Bible. ***The class is open to all interested people in the community.*** BYOB, bring your own Bible!