

Welcome to St. John's Church



"Sermon of St. Paul in Athens," Raphael, 1514/5

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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 *O God, the King of Glory* Orlando Gibbons (c.1583-1625)
Translation: *O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thy only son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost, to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.*

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 408 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al - might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and
a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the
our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the
ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

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.

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 Readings

INTRODUCTION: This reading is Paul's address in a public forum to the curious citizens of Athens.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (17:22-31)

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each

one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 66:8-20 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain*

Refrain

God holds our souls in life.

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, *
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in
 trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

INTRODUCTION: This reading offers guidance for all Christians, counseling a readiness to suffer patiently for doing what is right.

A Reading from the First Epistle of Peter (3:13-22)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn # 204 *Now the Green Blade Riseth From the Buried Grain*



1	Now	the	green	blade	ris - eth	from	the	bur - ied	grain,		
2	In	the	grave	they	laid	him,	Love	whom	hate	had	slain,
3	Forth	he	came	at	Eas - ter,	like	the	ris - en	grain,		
4	When	our	hearts	are	win - try,	griev - ing,	or	in	pain,		

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain,
 thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel Jesus promises his followers that those who love him will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will also see him.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to St. John (14:15-21)**

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

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

We offer our prayers and thanksgivings to God, who in the midst of our trials and adversities gives us the faith to endure, responding, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ In thanksgiving for the holy commandments of the Lord's truth, and Jesus' eternal gift of love, that we may follow them as pathways to sanctification; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may be a community of joyous believers, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving each other's sins, responding to the needs of all, so that the world may see and know that all things are being made new through the Risen One; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for this Eucharistic Meal, where Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us and invites us to share in heaven's feast; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for the faith of Abraham and Sarah, and of all the faithful departed whose every breath was lived in response to God's promises; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may give honor to those considered least in our society, knowing that Jesus reveals the divine will through their lives and in the course of their abiding faithfulness; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That children may receive a full measure of food, education, parental love, and a religious upbringing; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for those who volunteer their time for the ministry of Christ in this church, in our diocese, and throughout the world; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

As adopted children of Jesus, through our passage in the waters of baptism, let us continue our prayers and thanksgiving, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***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*

Anthem *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless* William Byrd (1540-1623)

Text: *I will not leave you comfortless. Alleluia. I go, and I will come to you. Alleluia. And your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia. (John 14:18 & 16:22)*

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 *Mass for Four Voices* John Stainer (c.1840-1901)

*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.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the Kyrie, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the final line.

Agnus Dei *Communion Service in C* Everett Titcomb (c.1884-1968)

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 # 304 *I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord*

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

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 # 419 *Lord of All Being, Throned Afar*

1 Lord of all be - ing, throned a - far, thy glo - ry
 2 Sun of our life, thy quick - ening ray sheds on our
 3 Lord of all life, be - low, a - bove, whose light is
 4 Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kin - dling

flames from sun and star; cen - ter and soul of
 path the glow of day; star of our hope, thy
 truth, whose warmth is love, be - fore thy ev - er -
 hearts that burn for thee, till all thy liv - ing

ev - ery sphere, yet to each lov - ing heart how near!
 soft - ened light cheers the long watch - es of the night.
 blaz - ing throne we ask no lus - ter of our own.
 al - tars claim one ho - ly light, one heaven - ly flame.

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*

Tom Hollinger: *Reader at 8:00 a.m.*

Holly Flor: *Reader at 10:00 a.m.*

Sara Coles: *Chalicer*

Laura Daly: *Veejay (VJ)*

MB Witt, Virginia Reynolds: *Altar Guild*

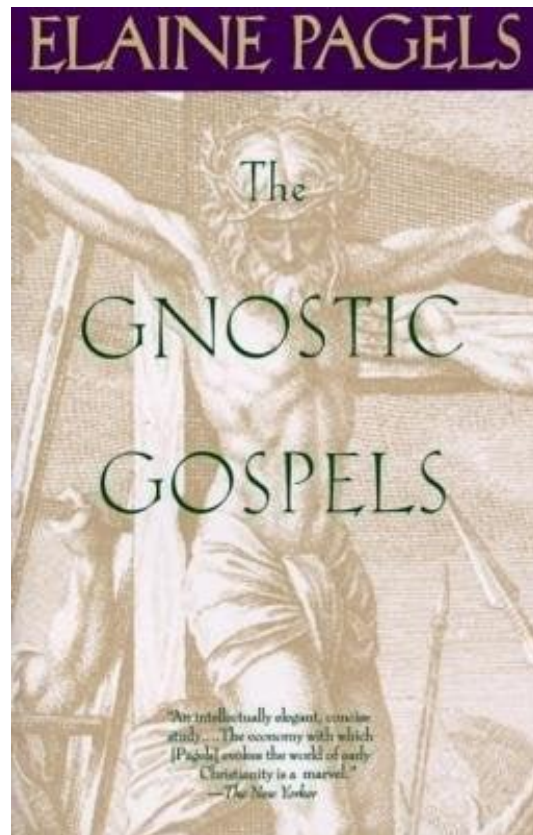
MB Witt, Corrine Johnson: *Coffee Hour Hostesses*



***The Thrifty Church Mouse shop
is open Wednesdays & Saturdays 10:30-2:30***

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Elaine Pagels'
“The Gnostic Gospels”



*started 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!