



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 10:30 AM
St. John's, Jamaica Plain

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Today's Worship Team

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Ted Cole

Altar Minister: Andrew Schieffelin

Music Director: Harrison Lee

Greeter: Pat Race

Reader: John Travers

Altar Guild: The Rev. Dorie Goehring

A/V Volunteer: Georgia Buck

Fellowship Hour: Community Meal

Flower Ministry: Georgia Buck

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn: 1982 Hymnal #296 *We know that Christ is raised*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

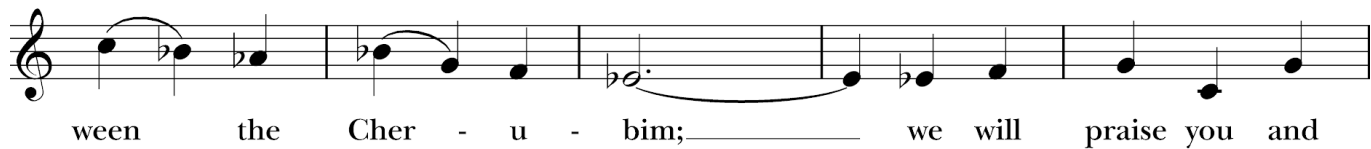
People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Song of Praise - 1982 Hymnal #S-236 (Rutter)

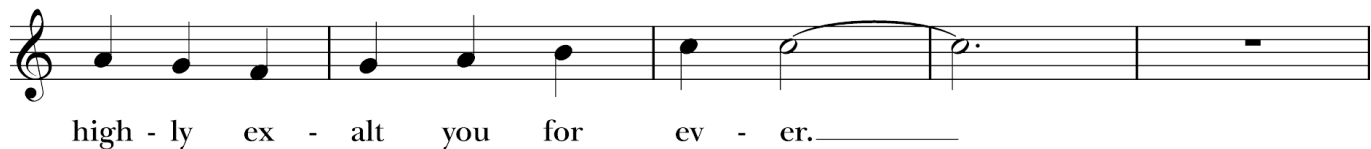
1. Glo - ry to you, _____ Lord
God of our fa - thers; _____ you are wor - thy of praise;
glo - ry to you. _____ 2. Glo - ry to you _____
_ for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; _____ we will
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____
3. Glo - ry to you _____ in the splen - dor of your
tem - ple; _____ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to



you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

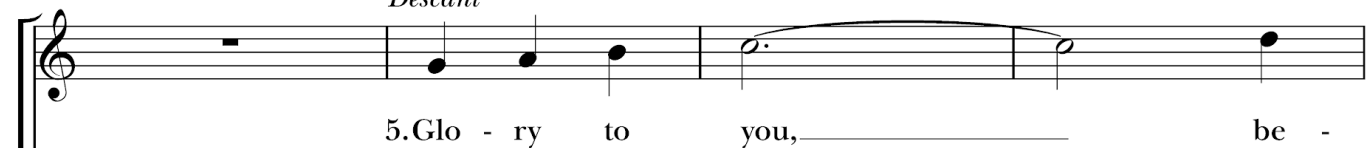


ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and



high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Descant



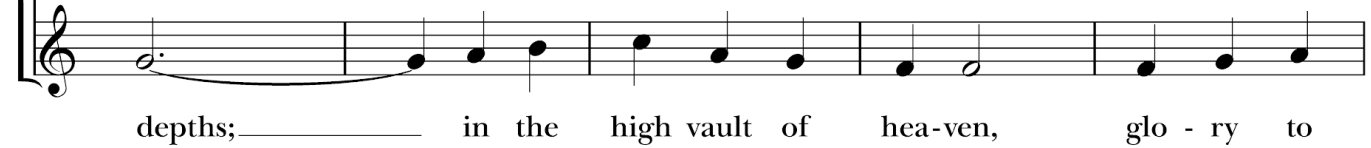
5. Glo - ry to you, be -



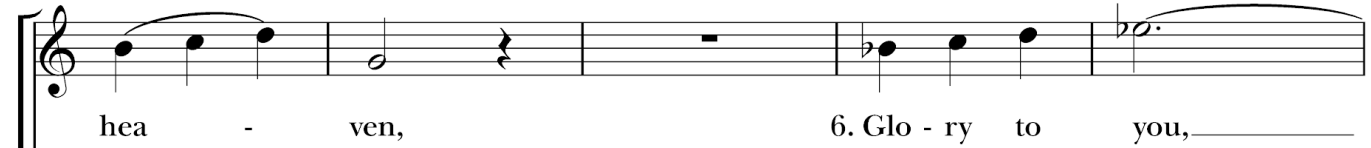
5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the



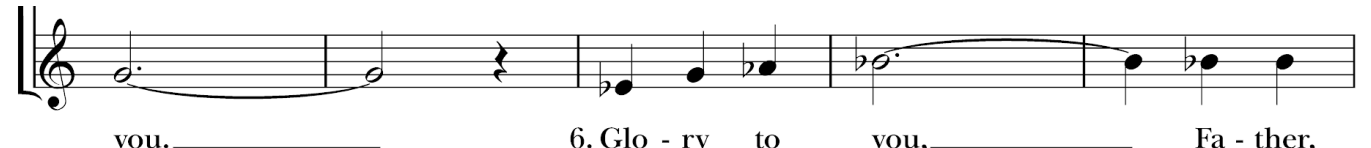
hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of



depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to



hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you,



you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,

— Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
 high-ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!
 high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Sovereign, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant invites the people to sit for the lessons.

Psalm 22:24-30

*The text of the psalm is from the Book of Common Prayer,
 and adapted for expansive language.*

24 My praise is of God in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship God.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Holy One shall praise God: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Holy One, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

27 For dominion belongs to the Holy One; *
God rules over the nations.

28 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

29 My soul shall live for God;
my descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the Holy One's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that God has done.

*The Bible texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989
by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA,
and used by permission. Texts are adapted for inclusive language.*

In the Easter season, we hear two lessons from the New Testament and a Gospel reading.

The First Reading

Reader A Reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Sovereign God said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you

understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Sovereign God snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

[Acts 8:26-40]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In

this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of the Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that God has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

[1 John 4:7-21]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand for the reading of the Gospel. As the Gospel Procession walks to the Chancel Crossing, the choir and people sing the Sequence Hymn.

Sequence Hymn: 1982 Hymnal #529 *In Christ there is no East or West*

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and God is the vinegrower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

[John 15:1-8]

The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

After the Sermon, the subdeacon invites the congregation to stand and recite the Nicene Creed.

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 Intercessor comes forward and leads the People in the Prayers.

The Prayers of the People - Book of Common Prayer Form IV

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

O God, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

O God, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Intercessor O God, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

O God, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

O God, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

O God, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Intercessor invites the People to offer aloud or in their hearts their concerns, thanksgivings and memorials this day. Prayer concerns from the LiveChat on YouTube may be shared aloud in the sanctuary. After the time of sharing is complete, the Intercessor offers the following prayer:

O God, we lift up to you these prayers spoken with our lips, and those prayers we speak to you in our hearts, and those prayers which we have no words to express in any way, knowing that, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, you hear our prayers before we even ask them. And further, we pray in the hope and in the confidence that in Christ Jesus, you are working blessings in our midst beyond our asking and imagining. In Christ's holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

In keeping with long standing Christian tradition, during the joy of the Easter season, we omit the Confession and proceed straight to the Peace, led by the Celebrant.

The Peace

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

The Celebrant invites the People to share signs of Christ's peace .

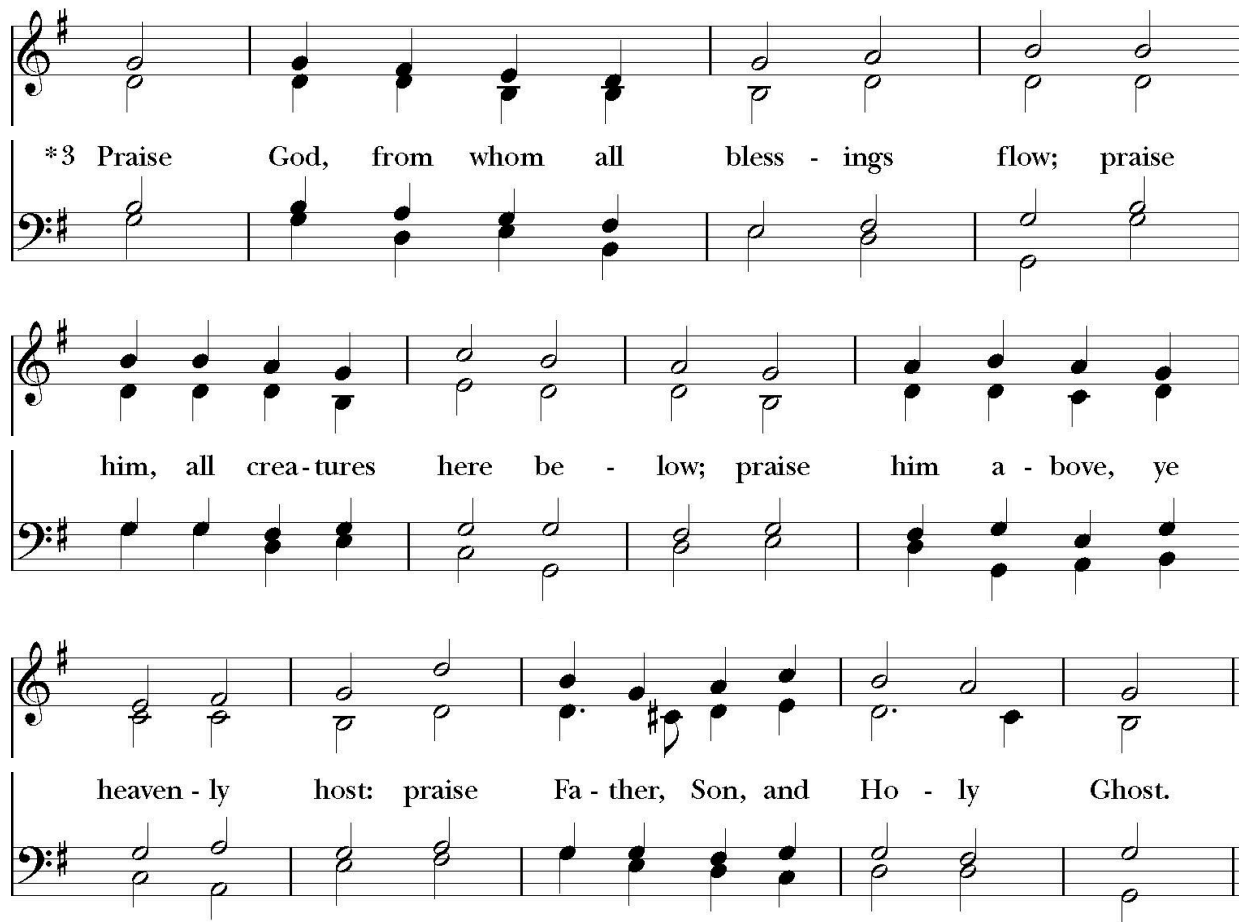
The Offertory

We welcome your financial offerings to support the ministry of the St. John's community. You can give through our online donation platform at the Donate page of our website: www.stjohns-jp.org.. You may also give via text message by sending the dollar amount of your donation to: (844) 935-2967. GivePlus Text will then walk you through a simple donation process. Thank you for supporting St. John's!

Offertory Anthem *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* - J. S. Bach

The Celebrant invites the people forward for Holy Communion. Those with financial gifts to offer place them in the offering plate. As the bread and wine are elevated and the Offering is blessed at the altar, the people, led by the choir, sing the Doxology.

The Doxology: 1982 Hymnal, #380, verse 3



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A *adapted for expansive language*

Celebrant May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to our God.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Holy Trinity our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus: 1982 Hymnal, H-S 125 (Proulx)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Creator: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Sovereign 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal domain.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Celebrant continues.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray in the words of the New Zealand Prayer Book:

The People pray the version of the Lord's Prayer offered below. We will rotate between this version, the Rite I version and Rite II version every three weeks.

From the New Zealand Prayer Book:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving
God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the
universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your
heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of
peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread
we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too
great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and says

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!
People Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Then the congregation offers the Fraction Anthem:

Fraction Anthem: 1982 Hymnal, S-159 (Douglas)

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way
the sins of the world, have mer - cy
up - on us. O Lamb of God,
that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of
the world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa Marialis*; Plainsong, Mode 5; Mass 9; adapt. and acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Setting:
Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Celebrant offers the 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.

The Celebrant and altar minister receive Holy Communion and then serve the People around the altar. Once the People have received, they return to their seats.

Musical Improvisation during Communion

Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant invites the People to stand and join in the Post Communion Prayer.

Celebrant Let us pray

Celebrant and People

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth

a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Announcements

Thanking Liz Cumberbatch

Blessing

Celebrant May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Everabiding Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 1982 Hymnal #304 *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

The Dismissal

Deacon Go forth in the peace and power of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

During the Postlude, we invite you to a time of individual healing prayer with a member of our lay pastoral care team by the baptismal font, either for yourself or a loved one you hold in your heart.

Join Us after Service for Our Community Meal

We gather for a special time of food and fellowship today, the Community Meal! Join us for waffles, cake and other delicious items. This is also our spring fundraiser, so please help us reach our goal of \$1000 to support St. John's life and ministries! Come join us!

New to the parish and want to connect with us? In the sanctuary, please fill out a white visitor card in your pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the clergy. Participating on YouTube? Email our Parish Administrator Carmen at parish.admin@stjohns-jp.org to get signed up for our weekly email and ask to meet with one of our clergy for a friendly conversation.

Parish Prayer List

Concerns

Delva Bent

Winnie Lyons and Richard
Pettengill

The Lewis and Minick Families

Rev. Dr. Jim Speer

Christina Hopkins

Jefferson Lyons

Kierin Kerbawy

Thomas Groeneman

Mayra Escutia

Wendy Dodd

Laurie Speer
Mary Ellen Cahill
Andy and Sally Thomas
Kathryn O'Leary
Megan D.
Pere and Paquette Puigserver
Jim Grant
Carolyn Whitman
Scott, Penny, and Wolfgang
 Wilhelm
Lori Reed
Juan Carlos

Memorials

Geraldine (Gerri) Romanos
Maria Minick
Joy Aliss Cochran
Ira Katz
Kate Brodeur
Johnny Collins
Rt. Rev. "Bud" Cederholm
Perea Hopkins
Rick Gaillardetz
William Jack Hamilton
Trudy Simpson
Wei Kwei Yang
Milton McGorrill

If you would like to add a concern, thanksgiving or memorial to our Parish Prayer List, please email the church office at parish.admin@stjohns-jp.org and we will be honored to add them.

Next Sunday, May 5

First Sunday Family Service with Blessing Prayers

Next Sunday we worship together as a parish family with a Godly Play lesson, time of wondering, Holy Communion and Blessing Prayers for birthdays, baptismal anniversaries, relationship anniversaries and life transitions. Be sure to join us!

Prepared Communion - Holy Communion Preparation for Children aged

7-9 We are very excited to form our next Prepared Communion class this spring for a four-week series of classes to get ready for a special Sunday worship where the children will receive Holy Communion. Contact Ted to learn more, reserve your spot and help us set our calendar (ted@stjohns-jp.org or call/text 617-942-0611).

St. John's and You - Becoming a Member - St. John's, Jamaica Plain is an exciting local parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Taking part in worship and activities and offering financial support makes you a

part of us! If you want more, you can formally become a member by participating in a New Member Rite on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Speak with Dorie (dorie@stjohns-jp.org) or Ted (ted@stjohns-jp.org or call/text 617-942-0611) to express your interest and learn more!

St. John's and You - Becoming Episcopalian - Being a member of St. John's is open to anyone who participates in our worship life, supports the community financially and signs the church register. If you feel moved by our worship and values to become Episcopalian, we would be honored to go on that journey with you! Bishop Carol Gallagher is coming to St. John's on September 29 and at that service, after a time of preparation, she can confirm you as an Episcopalian or receive you into the Episcopal Church if you have been confirmed in another denomination. Speak with Ted to learn more and formally begin your journey to become Episcopalian! (ted@stjohns-jp.org or call/text 617-942-0611)

Upcoming Concerts at St. John's

Apollo Ensemble - Saturday, May 18, 7:30 PM

Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony

Program:

Julian Gau - A Bridge

Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending (Aidan Ip, Violin; Reuben Stern, Conductor)

Mendelssohn - Symphony No. 3 (Scottish)

Ways to Stay Connected with the St. John's Community

We send a **Weekly Email Newsletter** which is one of the best ways to get up to date information about what is happening at St. John's. Sign up on our website with this link or email our Parish Administrator Carmen at parish.admin@stjohns-jp.org.

Our blog, **The Red Door**, offers regular posts on music, social justice reflections and more. Find The Red Door here or type <https://www.stjohns-jp.org/news> in your browser.

St. John's is also on **Facebook** and **Instagram**

Our Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsJP/>

Our Instagram Page - <https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsjp/>

St. John's Vestry

Co-Warden: Ann Collins

Treasurer: Andrew Schieffelin

Member: Abigail Francis

Member: Shannon McCarthy

Co-Warden: Deb Whitman

Clerk: Ginnie Smith

Member: Alison Hodge

Member: Charlie Wibiralske

St. John's Clergy

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ted Cole, Jr.

Curate: The Rev. Dorie Goehring

St. John's Staff

Music Director: Harrison Lee

Parish Administrator: Carmen Powell

Godly Play Teacher: Jess Easter

**APRIL 28, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Jesus abides with us like a vine to its branches.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Ephesians 3:14-19	Christ's love for us
Thursday	Psalm 91	Assurance of God's protection
Friday	Exodus 34:6-7	God of steadfast love and faithfulness
Saturday	Psalm 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, we thank you for your steadfast love that remains with us forever and guides us into the future through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing our lives with your presence through the true vine, Christ our Lord, who gives us life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love lead you to love others. (1 John 4:19)



APRIL 28, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



taking **+**
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you have felt lost or alone?
- How does knowing of God's love through Jesus help you when you feel anxious or lost?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 15:1-8.

This is the last of Jesus' "I am" statements. Earlier in the Gospel of John he said "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the gate," "I am the good shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life." These self-descriptive statements are all introduced with the words, "I am," that is reminiscent of the name for God in the Old Testament. "Yahweh," is translated as "I am who I am." In John, Jesus is presented as one with God without any uncertainty. The final "I am" statement is important because it comes during Jesus' lengthy message to his eleven disciples before his crucifixion (John 14 through 17). Jesus makes it clear that he will not abandon them. He will abide with them. The identity and ministry of the disciples will endure and be full of life because they are intimately part of Jesus, like branches given life by the vine.

Discuss: When the future is uncertain and you feel anxious, lost, or alone, what do you do and how can you be reminded that Jesus abides with you always?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us confidence in your presence and abide with us in our life's journey through Jesus Christ, the true vine who feeds us with your love and strength. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage and help those who feel lost or alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about love. 1 John 4:12 tells us that "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." It is this love that we are to show to others. Draw the outline of a body with a heart inside. Write God inside the heart. Then write words inside the body that describe how we can show God's love to one another.

Pray: **Loving God, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Amen. (1 John 4:7)**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org