

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 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: Pat Race Music Director: Harrison Lee Greeter: Natasha Seaman Reader: Ann Collins

Altar Guild: Pat Race A/V Volunteer: Chuck Pratt Fellowship Hour: Ann Collins

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn: 1982 Hymnal #199 *Come, ye faithful, raise the strain*Opening Acclamation

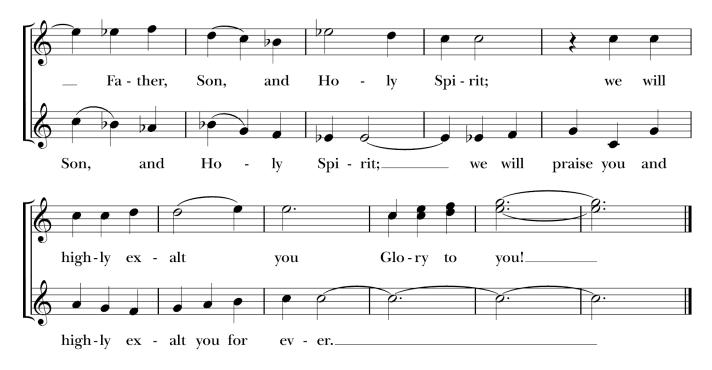
Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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







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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant invites the people to sit for the lessons.

Psalm 4

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

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; * you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; * how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the Holy One does wonders for the faithful; * when I call upon the Holy One, God will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; * speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices * and put your trust in the Holy One.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" * Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Holy One.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, * more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; * for only you, O Holy One, make me dwell in safety.

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.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to

have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

[Acts 4:32-35]

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.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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 #440 Blessed Jesus, at thy word

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke. People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

[Luke 24:36b-48]

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 salvationhe came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirithe 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 heavenand 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.

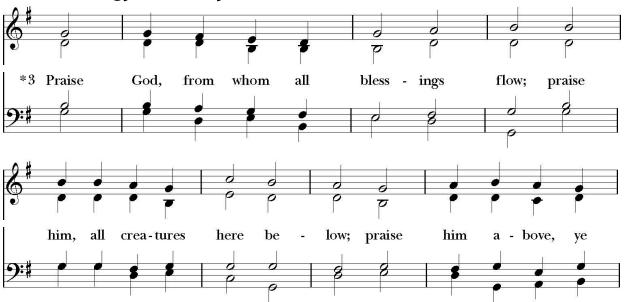
The Offertory

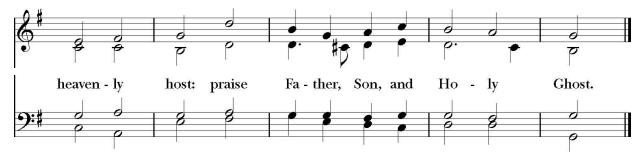
We welcome your financial offerings to support the ministry of the St. John's community. You can give through our online donation platform at the Donate page of our website: www.stjohns-jp.org.. You may also give via text message by sending the dollar amount of your donation to: (844) 935-2967. GivePlus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

Offertory Anthem Christ the Lord is risen again! by Anthony Foster

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





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

CelebrantMay God be with you.PeopleAnd 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.

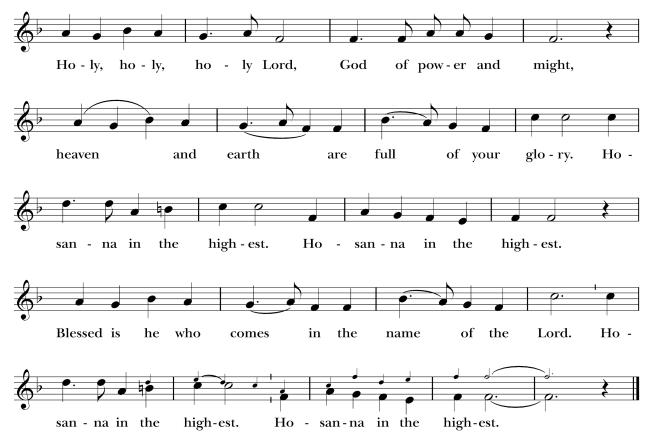
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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) next page



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 most meaningful to you:

The People pray one of the following versions of the Lord's Prayer, or another dear to their heart in another language or translation. Those praying the Rite II or Rite I version are encouraged to allow those praying the New Zealand Prayer Book version to start first so we can end together.

Book of Common Prayer, Rite II:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Rite I:

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.

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.

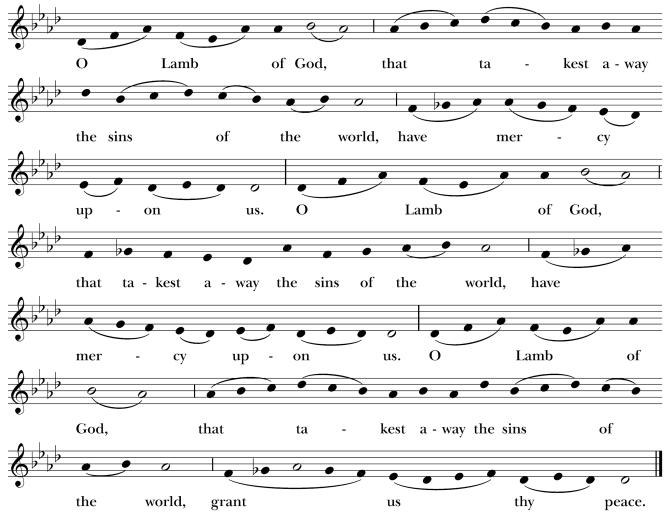
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and says

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)



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

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 #205 *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!* (Verses 1, 3-5)

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 Fellowship Hour

We gather for a time of food and fellowship in the back of the church after worship. 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.

Thank you to all who donated Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary during our Easter weekend and season!

From Ann Collins in loving memory of her mother, Trudy and her brother, Johnny.

From Ted Cole, Jr. in loving memory of his father, Ted Cole and his mother, Jean.

From Dorie Goehring, in loving memory of all who have passed from the extended Goehring and Windels families.

From Georgia Buck and Mark Richardson in loving memory of Bradley E. Buck, Louis Richardson, Ann Staples and Jim Staples.

From Deb Whitman in loving memory of her father, Charles Whitman and her uncle, Paul Koumrian.

From Pat Race and Dawn Tesorero in loving memory of Bud & Martha Race, Richard Race Jr and Priscilla Lemieux.

From Carmen Powell, for Charlie, her beloved dog

This Sunday, April 14

Social Justice Group Meeting April 14 - 12:00-1:30 PM

If you have a heart for social justice, St. John's has an active group of folks working together to learn more about our parish history, our ties to the slave trade and what reparations looks like. We are partnering with Episcopal City Mission and using resources from our Diocese to help in this work. Everyone is welcome to join April 14, right after worship.

Next Sunday, April 21

Special Collection to Honor Liz Cumberbatch and Support St. John's Mother's Day Walk for Peace Team

We are saying thank you to Liz Cumberbatch, our Parish Administrator for seven years, who ended her time with us at the end of February. In lieu of a gift, Liz asked us to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and their Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Next Sunday, we invite you to bring a cash donation to honor Liz and place it in the Offering Plate at Communion. All the funds gathered will be given to support St. John's Team at the 2024 Mother's Day Walk for Peace in honor of Liz!

Spring Community Meeting - 12:00-1:00 PM

In the tradition of New England town meetings, once a season we gather after worship for a Community Meeting, raising topics of interest and concern, sharing information and organizing for our life and ministry. Whether you have been here for forty years or four weeks, your participation is most welcome! Our childcare providers will stay to offer supervised play time to children (outside if the weather is nice!) so parents can participate.

Sunday April 28

The Community Meal, plus thanking Liz Cumberbatch in person

With the hope that it will feel like spring by April 28, we will hold our spring fundraiser right after church, the Community Meal! This will also be the Sunday we say thank you in person to Liz Cumberbatch, our outgoing Parish Administrator of the last seven years. The Community Meal is our Spring Fundraiser so we ask participants to enjoy the meal and fellowship

and help us reach our goal of \$1000. Thank you!

<u>Prepared Communion</u> - 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)

<u>Upcoming Concerts at St. John's</u>

A Far Cry - April 20

Animal Banter - 4 PM

Chamber concert meets dance party at this playful afternoon performance featuring contemporary works curated with your inner animal in mind. Unleash the beast within and lose yourself in this mélange of Classical beats, surrendering to the call of the wild.

Read more and buy tickets at afarcry.org.

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. <u>Sign up on our website with this link</u> 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. <u>Find The Red Door here</u> 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 Co-Warden: Deb Whitman

Treasurer: Andrew Schieffelin Clerk: Ginnie Smith

Member: Abigail Francis Member: Alison Hodge

Member: Shannon McCarthy Member: Charlie Wibiralske

St. John's Clergy

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ted Cole, Jr. Music Director: Harrison Lee

Curate: The Rev. Dorie Goehring Parish Administrator: Carmen Powell

St. John's Staff

Godly Play Teacher: Jess Easter

APRIL 14, 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus' resurrection brings peace and forgiveness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Thursday	Acts 26:19-23	Paul tells of his preaching
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. **Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for Jesus' resurrection that brings us peace and forgiveness of sins that we may go to bed each night trusting in your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food. Give food to those who do not have enough to eat and protection for those who do not feel safe, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

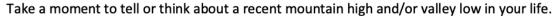
A Blessing to Give:

May Christ our Lord give you peace and gladness.



APRIL 14, 2024 HYMN OF THE WEEK Alleluia! Jesus is Risen faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- In what ways do you show hospitality to others?
- How does hospitality foster peace and forgiveness?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 24:36b-48.

The resurrection does not immediately clear up all our questions about faith and life. What does the resurrected body look like? What does the life of the church look like after Jesus' resurrection? Jesus comes as flesh and blood to speak, eat, and drink with his followers. The physical world matters. This is not a time to speculate about ghosts and life beyond earthly existence. The resurrection values God's creation. At least two important resurrection messages are present in this text. First, hospitality is shown by the sharing of life-giving food. Sustaining one another with food and community life goes on as a holy practice. Second, repentance and forgiveness of sins remains at the heart of the work of Jesus' followers. The resurrection celebrates life, community, peace, and forgiveness as essentials that will not be overcome by death, isolation, fear, or sin. Thanks be to God for the eternal power of God's reign shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

Discuss: What questions do you have about the resurrection and what it means for your life today?

Pray: God of eternal life, give us confidence to breathe peace, joy, forgiveness, and new beginnings into all our relationships through Christ Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Savior. 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 show care for the physical needs of others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



There are times at night when we worry about something and can't sleep. Psalm 4 is a prayer for help. It is a prayer that reaches out with confidence in God's love and care. The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's presence in our lives. Bedtime prayers are daily rituals that can have a powerful influence in our lives. At bedtime this week, take a moment to think or talk about something that may be keeping you awake at night. *Pray:* Dear Lord, be gracious to me, and hear my prayer that I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen. (Psalm 4)

