

St. John's Episcopal Church



The Third Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 4, 2025

The Prelude *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

setting by Thomas Keesecke

The Opening Hymn *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing*

The Hymnal 1982, 182

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

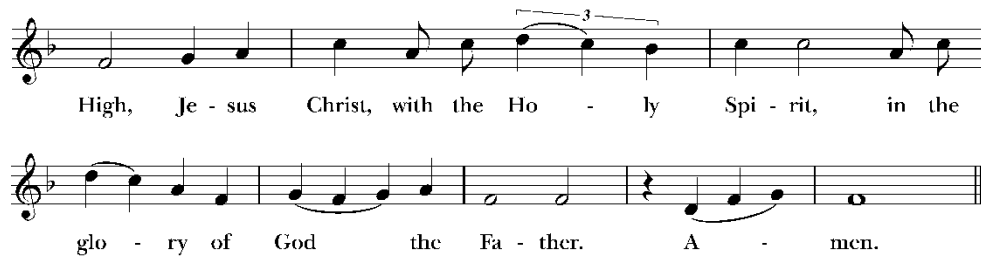
The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Gloria

The Hymnal 1982, S 280

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



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

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 First Lesson

Acts 9:1-20

In this reading from the story of the early church we hear how Paul is converted from being an enemy to the Christian way in order to become the great apostle to the non-Jewish peoples. While Saul is headed toward Damascus to persecute Christians, he is encountered by the risen Jesus. Jesus calls him by his Jewish name, Saul, and asks why he is persecuting his followers. Saul/Paul is blinded by the experience, and is instructed to proceed to Damascus, where God will offer further guidance. It is in Damascus that his sight is restored and it is added perception of his new faith and mission.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 30

Exaltabo te, Domine

This psalm is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving by one whom the Lord has saved from death.

We will read the psalm responsively, breaking at the half-verse.

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.
- 7 While I felt secure, I said,
 "I shall never be disturbed. *"
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- 8 Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.
- 9 I cried to you, O LORD; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- 10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *"
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; *
O LORD, be my helper."
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

The Second Lesson

Revelation 5:11-14

In this lesson "John the Seer" presents a heavenly vision of the Lamb that was slain—a figure of Jesus. Myriads of angels surround the elders and living creatures as they sing praises to the Lamb, joined by every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Christ who through his blood has offered ransom for his people now lives and is worthy of all honor and glory.

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
 to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
 and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
 be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *We sing the glorious conquest*

The Hymnal 1982, 255

The Gospel

John 21:1-19

Then, all standing, as able,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on

some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

Enriching Our Worship I

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who 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, Form III

The Book of Common Prayer, page 387

Gracious God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for our bishop Julia, for our rector Alan and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for those on our prayer list: Mary, Susan, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Dave, Alannah, MaryAnn, Dave, Luke, Bruce, April, Lyn, Henry, Steve, and Philip M.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the members of the Churches of the Charles River Deanery: **Trinity Parish of Newton Center** (Newton Centre), **Parish of the Good Shepherd** (Waban/Newton), **St. Andrew's Church** (Wellesley), **Allston Abbey** (Boston), **Life Together Diocesan Intern Program**.

I invite your own thanksgivings and petitions. Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Now the green blade rises*

setting by Alan Bullard

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen



The Great Thanksgiving -- Eucharistic Prayer A

The Book of Common Prayer, page 361

The people remain standing.

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

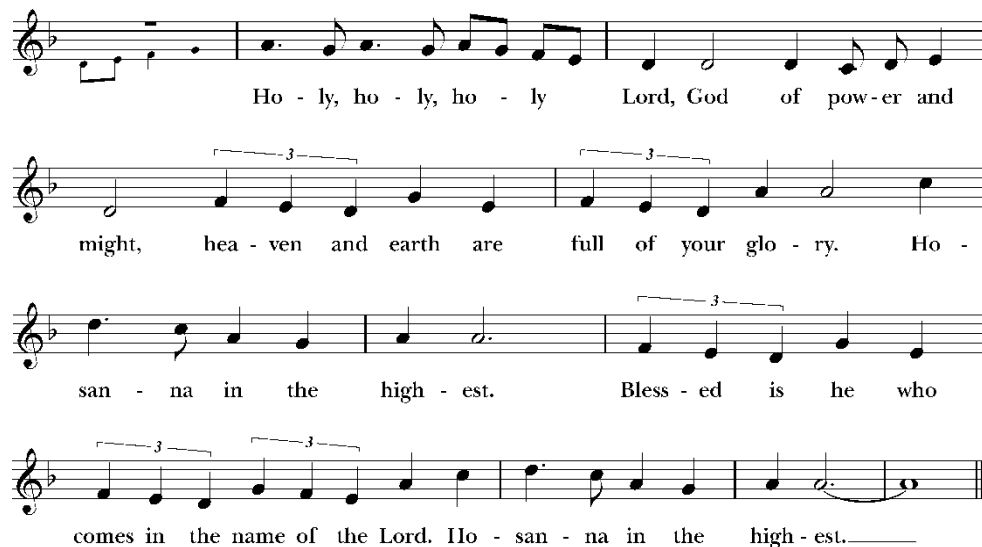
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

Sanctus

S-129



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

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father 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 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 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 Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
 Jesus Christ, our brother:
 Feed us now, give us life,
 Lead us to one another.*

As we proclaim your death,
 as we recall your life,
 we remember your promise
 to return again. **Refrain**

5 You are the bread of peace,
 you are the wine of joy,
 broken now for your people,
 poured in endless love. **Refrain**

Bread of life, #80 from *Voices Found* — Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell. Words and Music: Copyright © Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR 97218. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please hold out your hand to receive the host. You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided.

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to remain in your seat and receive communion, please let an usher know.

The Communion Hymn *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

The Hymnal 1982, 34

The Post Communion 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 Blessing

Welcome & Announcements

The Closing Hymn *Ye servants of God, your master proclaim*

The Hymnal 1982, 535

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Postlude *Organ Voluntary*

Serving Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Alan R. Hesse
 Lectors: Helen Miller, Sylvia Connor
 Lay Eucharistic Minister: Charles Diana
 Musicians: Misao Koyama and Choir

Ushers: Mary Howe and Bill Mills
Altar Guild: Melissa Abbott, Judy Cohen, and Jann Czarnetzki, Sharon Therriault

Announcements

Invite Welcome Connect: Beginning Saturday, May 10th, after the 5pm service, Invite Welcome Connect will be hosting a monthly social gathering on the second Saturday of every month. Beverages and appetizers will be served. All are welcome! Consider bringing a friend, neighbor, or family members and join us after worship in the Parish Hall. The next few dates are June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13.

St. John's Yard Sale: Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 23-26. Deb Roberts has been collecting donations for the sale and there is an abundance of items available! Please plan to shop on one of the dates. **Drop-Off: Tuesdays 12noon-2pm** (April-May) and **Saturdays 12noon-2pm** (April-May, at our accessible parking lot, left-hand side of the church. If you would like help with transportation, or to arrange for donations, contact Deb Roberts at 910-695-6100.

Baptism: the next date will be on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8 during the 9:30am service.

May 3-11, 2025

Saturday, May 3

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Happy Birthday Fr. Al

Sunday, May 4

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Hospitality following worship, Parish Hall

Monday, May 5

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, May 6

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, May 7

7pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, May 8

12noon AA, Parish Hall

4:30pm Lasit Performing Arts, Church

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, May 9

1pm Caring for Creation, Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/892976341>

Saturday, May 10

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

6pm Invite Welcome Connect social, Parish Hall

Sunday, May 11

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist

Hospitality following Worship, Parish Hall

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here! Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian. *All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA



Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm

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The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector; 508-505-5668 cell, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org

