



The Third Sunday of Easter

St. John's Episcopal Church
Sandwich, MA

April 18 and 19, 2026

The Prelude *Mit Freuden Zart*

setting by James Biery

The Opening Hymn *The strife is o'er, the battle done*

The Hymnal 1982, 208

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

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

The Gloria *5pm said, 9:30 sung*

The Hymnal 1982, S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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 2:14a,36-41

This reading is a summary of the preaching and other activities of the early Christian community in Jerusalem. The crucified one, Jesus, has been made Lord and Christ. Now is the time for repentance, forgiveness, and the gift of the Spirit. There are many signs and healings as the church grows. The new disciples share fully with one another and meet for teaching, eucharistic meals, and prayers. A reading from Acts.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Response Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

This Psalm is an offering of thanksgiving and praise by one who has been rescued from death.

We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 1:17-23

In this lesson we bear that the price of Christian freedom from the old ways of futility has been paid with the sacrificial blood of Christ. Although now we await the judgment of God the Father in awe, we have the faith and hope of people who have been born anew. The letter from which this passage comes was addressed to former pagans, and may first have been read at an Easter baptismal service. Having been purified by Christ's imperishable offering, disciples are now to love one another from the heart.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual Hymn Baptized in water

Wonder, Love and Praise 767

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, cleansed by the
 2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, dead in the
 3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, marked with the

blood of Christ our King: heirs of sal - va - tion,
 tomb with Christ our King: one with his ris - ing,
 sign of Christ our King: born of one Fa - ther,

trust - ing his prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 freed and for - giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 we are his child - ren, joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Seward (b. 1932). Music: Eugene W. Hancock (1929-1994).

The Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Then, all standing, as able,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter

into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner

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, our retired clergy 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.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Judy, Marilyn, Dave, George, Kim, and Tom.
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;

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._____

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.

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 Fraction Anthem

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***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**

Hold us in unity,
In love for all to see,
That the world may believe in
You, God of all who live. **Refrain**

You are the Bread of Peace,
You are the Wine of Joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love. **Refrain**

The Communion

Celebrant 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 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 in a white pedestal table.** 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.** **Gluten free** wafers are available, ask at the altar railing.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

The Communion Hymn *Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest*

The Hymnal 1982, 306

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

***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 Recessional Hymn *At the Lamb's high feast we sing*

The Hymnal 1982, 174

The Dismissal

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

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

The Postlude *Toccata in G Major*

William Hieronymous Pachelbel

Notes:

The Confession may be omitted during The Easter Season.

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to any of the dismissals.

Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the Sunday service.

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Greg Roche

Lectors: Analise Luippold, Sylvia Connor, and Celia Bailey-Ochoa

Altar Guild: Melissa Abbott, Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, and Sharon Therriault

Ushers: Mary Howe and Allen George



Welcome to St. John's!

*Whether this is your first visit to St. John's
or you are a long-time member, 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.

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.

Announcements

Hour of Prayer continues in the church, weekly, on Wednesdays, from 12-1pm.

Sunday School will be focusing on parables of Jesus Christ throughout the Spring. These stories are wonderful lessons for our children, and brought to life through Godly Play. Children are always eager to see what is inside each of the parable boxes on our shelves. We will be studying these parables throughout the month of April and into May. Our Sunday school lessons will be bright and colorful and filled with curiosity of the stories of Jesus. **There is no Sunday School this weekend.**

Save the date: April 21, 7pm in the Parish Hall: Join us for **“State of the Cape,”** a presentation on waste and recycling on Cape Cod. The presentation will include information on managing household hazardous waste, current conditions regarding solid waste disposal in the Commonwealth and on the Cape, an update on the trash train, and the latest on management of rechargeable batteries.

Our presenter is Kari Parcell. She has been with MassDEP and Barnstable County for over 9 years as a solid waste and recycling expert for the Cape and Islands. She has a master’s degree in political science and economics, as well as master’s in public administration and emergency management. In 2020 Kari received the 2020 MassRecycle “Outstanding Municipal Recycling Award” for her commitment to regional municipal diversion programs here in Barnstable, Duke’s, and Nantucket Counties. Admission is free; light refreshments will be served.

Caring for Creation Committee Meeting Fridays at 11:00 AM **Zoom**

link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>. Please join us.

The next Confirmation Meeting Date is April 19. We begin at 9 am. Please Chapters 6 & 7 for April 19. **Reception and Reaffirmation of Vows:** If you want to be Received or Confirmed on May 17 at Christ Church Plymouth, please call Reverend Barbara at 781-910-1323 for further information.

St. John’s “Caring for Creation” committee and the Hydrangea Festival are looking for a few nice gardens available during the Hydrangea Festival in mid July. St. John’s sponsored 2 gardens last year, and would like to add several more this summer. At \$5 per visitor, this can be a good fund raiser for St. John’s. If you know of someone who is interested, please notify Steve Tom at 508-685-3735 or Mary Howe at 774-810-6878 by April 1st.

Fr. Al is on a medical recovery. The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner is celebrating with us this weekend. Please welcome Fr. Phil.

Calendar

Saturday, April 18

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 19

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist, Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

No Sunday School this weekend.

Monday, April 20

Office Open today

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

4-8pm Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall & Undercroft)

Tuesday, April 21

Office Open Today

12noon AA, Parish Hall

7pm Caring for Creation Presentation - Recycling and the Trash Train

Wednesday, April 22

Office Closed

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church

7pm Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall

Thursday, April 23

Office Closed

12noon AA, Parish Hall

4:30-5:30pm Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall)

6-6:45pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, April 24

Office Closed

11am Caring for Creation Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

Saturday, April 25

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 26

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist, Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

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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