



# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Sandwich, MA

May 2 and 3, 2026

**The Prelude** *Largo and Andante*

*Maurice Greene*

**The Opening Hymn** *Father, we praise thee*

*The Hymnal 1982, 1*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen!

*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 355

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

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*The Hymnal 1982, S-278*

**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

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

## The First Lesson

**Acts 7:55-60**

*In this reading, a deacon of the church, Stephen, preaches salvation history before the high priest and the council, culminating in a vision of Jesus standing at God's right hand. Those gathered are so provoked by this testimony that, enraged, they drag him from the city and stone him to death. Those stoning Stephen lay their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul, who will later become the apostle Paul. Stephen prays God to forgive those putting him to death, as did Jesus from the cross. A reading from Acts.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Response Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*In te, Domine, speravi*

*This is a psalm of trust by one who looks to the Lord for mercy and protection.*

*We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.*

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \*  
**deliver me in your righteousness.**
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
**make haste to deliver me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
**for you are my tower of strength.**
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
**for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

## The Second Lesson

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

*This reading presents a series of images from the Old Testament, describing Christians as chosen people called by God to God's service. It is possible that the passage was once used during an Easter season baptismal liturgy. Newborn disciples are to purify themselves and, as living stones, to join themselves to Jesus, the rejected one, who now is the cornerstone of the spiritual temple. They are the new Israel, called out of darkness into light.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

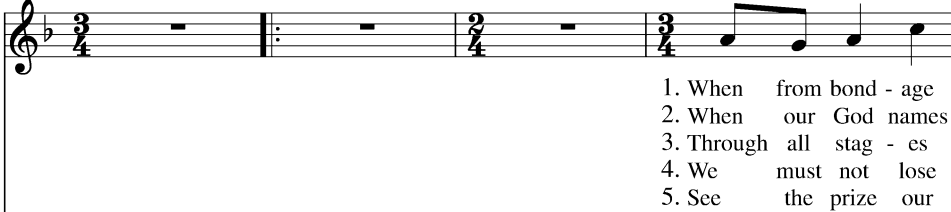
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

## The Gradual Hymn *When from bondage we are summoned*

*Wonder, Love and Praise, 754*



1. When from bond - age  
2. When our God names  
3. Through all stag - es  
4. We must not lose  
5. See the prize our

we are sum - moned out of dark - ness in - to light, we must  
us a peo - ple, Je - sus leads us by the hand through a  
of the jour - ney Christ is with us, night and day, with com -  
sight of Je - sus, who ac - cept - ed pain and loss, who, for  
God has prom - ised: end - less life with Christ our Lord. Now we

**The Gospel** *all standing, as able, facing the Gospel*

**John 14:1-14**

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

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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.



*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:

**The Sanctus** *spoken at 5pm, sung at 9:30am*

*Wonder, Love and Praise, 858*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes

high - est. 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 Breaking of the Bread/The Fraction**

*5pm Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

**The Breaking of the Bread / The Fraction Anthem** *sung at 9:30am*

*Wonder Love & Praise, 875*

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the  
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. *Congregation* 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The  
 The dis -

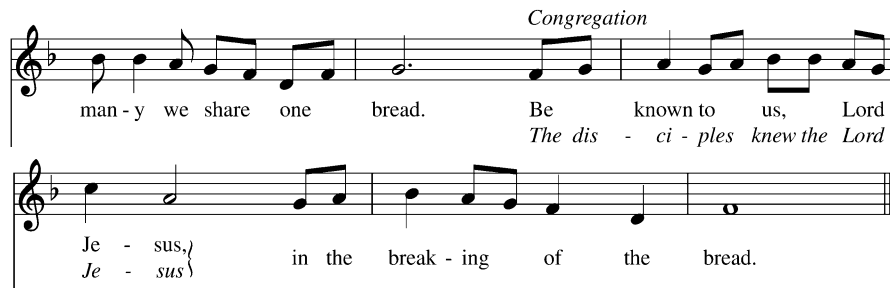
bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -  
*Congregation*

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be  
 The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the  
 ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

*Cantor or Choir*

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though



## 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** *Let us break bread together*

*The Hymnal 1982, 645*

## The Postcommunion 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

## The Welcome Birthdays & Anniversaries & Announcements

**The Recessional Hymn** *The church's one foundation*

*The Hymnal 1982, 525*

## The Dismissal

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

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

## The Postlude

*Organ Voluntary*

*Notes: The Confession may be omitted during The Easter Season.*

*The people are invited to remain standing, as able, for the entire Eucharistic Prayer during The Waster Season.*

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

*Introduction to the readings come from Frederick Bosch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition", Morehouse 2000.*

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

## Announcements

**Hour of Prayer:** The church is open for your quiet prayers weekly, on Wednesdays, from 12-1pm.

**Caring for Creation Committee:** Meeting Fridays at 11:00 AM Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>.

**Confirmation Class** meets on May 3 at 9 am in the Office.

**During this Easter season, you are invited to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal**, which this year highlights key ways we support shepherds, lay and ordained alike, who are strengthening congregational vitality throughout our diocese. Bishop Julia says: "Your generosity helps strengthen congregations and ministries across our diocese. For example, congregations such as **St. John's in Sandwich** are growing through tools like Invite, Welcome, Connect. Diverse clergy mutual support groups are serving a wide variety of communities. All of these ministries bind us together as one church, as the collective body of Christ". Please consider supporting the Annual Appeal. Donation envelopes can be found in the Narthex.

**Sunday School News:** Throughout the Spring, the Sunday school will be focusing on parables of Jesus Christ. 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.

**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.

**Little League Opening Day Parade, Sunday May 3:** Please join us for the 60th annual Sandwich Little League Parade that will be passing by Saint John's on Sunday May 3 at approximately 12:15pm. Please show your support for the kids and coaches and greet our local little leaguers as they march for Opening Day. The parade will march from the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (formerly the Sandwich Police Station), down Route 6A to Jarves Street and then past Saint John's on Main Street before completion at the Little League complex on Morse Road. Volunteers are welcome to greet parents and prospective parishioners in front of the church. An offering of refreshments would be appreciated. Any member of the Sunday School participating in the Opening Day Parade, please wear your team uniform. Play Ball!

**On May 24<sup>th</sup> we are celebrating** Phyllis Helfrich who turns 90 years old this May. If you would like to shower her with cards, please call the office for her contact information.

**St. John's blessing book** (gold) is located in the Narthex if you wish to add your own thanks for God's blessings.

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## Today's Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Ames and Jared Cohen

**Lectors:** Nancy Silva, Eileen Donaruma, and Susan Carliss

**Altar Guild:** Sylvia Connor, Phyllis Helfrich, Bev Messersmith, and Anne Miller

**Hospitality:** Jeannie Johnson

**Usher:** Mary Howe

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## Calendar

### Sunday, May 3

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

### Monday, May 4

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall  
4-8pm Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall &  
Undercroft)

### Tuesday, May 5

12noon AA, Parish Hall

### Wednesday, May 6

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church  
7pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

### Thursday, May 7

12noon AA, Parish Hall  
4:30-5:30pm Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall)  
6-6:45pm AA, Undercroft

### Friday, May 8

11am Caring for Creation Zoom  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

### Saturday, May 9

9:30am AA, Parish Hall  
5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist  
Second Saturday Social follows service

### Sunday, May 10

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

**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.

## **Saint John's Episcopal Church**

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

**159 Main St  
Sandwich, MA**



**Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm**

**Parish Office 508-888-2828**

**Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator** [parishadmin@StJohnsSandwich.org](mailto:parishadmin@StJohnsSandwich.org)

**Misao Koyama, Music Director** [music@StJohnsSandwich.org](mailto:music@StJohnsSandwich.org)

**The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner, Priest Associate (retired)**      **The Rev. Barbara Peterson, Priest Associate (retired)**

**The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector** 508-888-2828 extension 2, text 508-505-5668, [Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org](mailto:Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org)