

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

St. John's Episcopal Church
Sandwich, MA

May 16 and 17, 2026

The Prelude *Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*

J. Brahms

The Opening Hymn *Hail the day that sees him rise*

The Hymnal 1982, 214

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

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 1:6-14

In this reading we hear of Jesus' promise of empowerment for mission by the Holy Spirit, after which he is envisioned being lifted up into heaven. The author of Acts pictures the missionary work of the church spreading outward from Jerusalem. In obedience to Jesus' command, the disciples return to the city and, with others of Jesus' followers and relatives, prayerfully await the coming of the Spirit. Although Jesus will one day appear again, his community now has a ministry to bring the good news to the world. A reading from The Act of the Apostles.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of

James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Exsurgat Deus

This is a psalm of praise to the mighty God who has brought the people out of Egypt and saved Israel from her enemies. God reigns on high. We will read Psalm 68 responsively by half verse.

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *

let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *

as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *

let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *

YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *

God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *

but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *

when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *

you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; *

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *

sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *

he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; *

his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *

the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

In this lesson we learn that when Christians find it necessary to suffer for their faith, they are to know that they are sharing in Christ's sufferings. They can even find cause for rejoicing, recognizing that this may well be a sign that God's Spirit is with them. The advice was given during an outbreak of persecution of Christians in Asia Minor. The disciples are urged to make sure that they only suffer in a right cause and are then unashamed to confess Christ's name. A reading from Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual Hymn *The head that once was crowned with thorns*

The Hymnal 1982, 483

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

John 17:1-11

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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, 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, Tom, Alan, Charlie, and Ed.

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.

The altar is adorned to the Glory of God in honor of Kevin and Mary Ames' 43rd wedding anniversary, by Mary Ames.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the members of the Concord River Deanery: **St. John's Chapel, Groton School** (Groton), **St. Michael's Church** (Holliston), **St. Paul's Church** (Hopkinton), and **St. Luke's Church** (Hudson).

I invite your own thanksgivings and petitions. Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *The people may add their own petitions silently.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect(s).

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

setting by Lloyd Larson

The Offertory Sentence *5pm All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.*

The Doxology *9:30am Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*



The Great Thanksgiving

Scottish Liturgy 2022, adapted, Eucharistic Prayer VII

The Great Thanksgiving -- Eucharistic Prayer A

The Book of Common Prayer, page 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

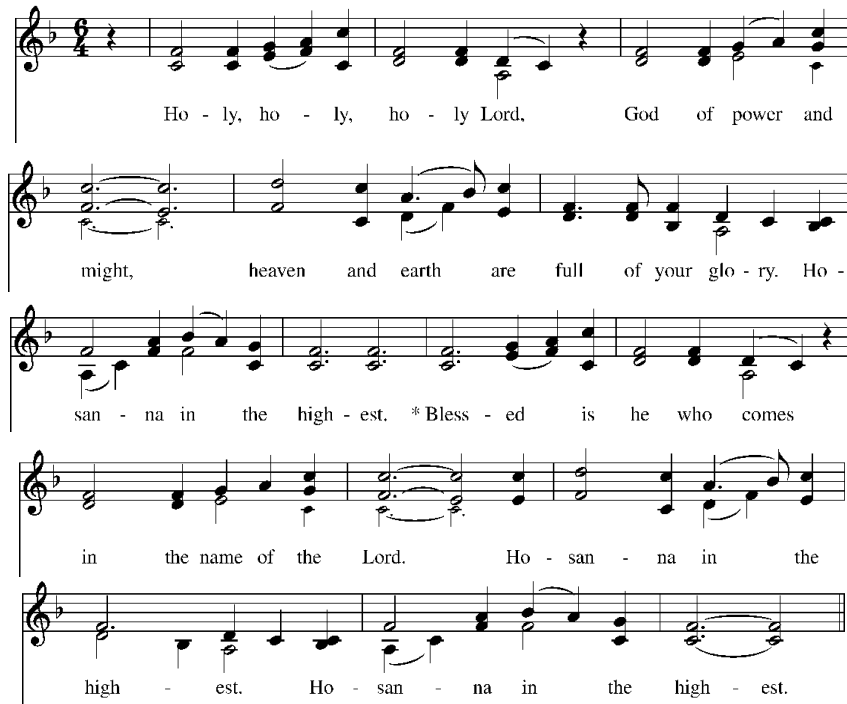
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:

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
 might, heaven 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. 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
Congregation

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.
 Je - sus }

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 *Peace before us*

Wonder, Love and Praise, 79

- 1 Peace before us, peace behind us,
peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us,
let all around us be peace.
- 2 Love before us, love behind us,
love under our feet.
Love within us, love over us,
let all around us be love.
- 3 Light before us, light behind us,
light under our feet.
Light within us, light over us,
let all around us be light.

- 4 Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ under our feet.
Christ within us, Christ over us,
let all around us be Christ.
- 5 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 6 Peace before us, peace behind us,
peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us,
let all around us be peace.

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 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

The Hymnal 1982, 460

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 *Sinfonietta*

G.F. Handel

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 Easter 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, 3rd Edition", Morehouse 2000.

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

Today's Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

Director of Music: Misao Koyama

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Charles Diana

Lectors: Nancy Silva, Sylvia Connor, and Celia Ochoa

Altar Guild: Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault

Hospitality: Fr. Al and Tim Orwig

Ushers: Mary Howe and Rusty Page

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>.

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 and in the Parish Hall.

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

There are open spaces on the Floral Calendar in the Narthex for altar arrangements. Suggested donation is \$50.00. Thank you to all who have provided lovely arrangements so far this year! Floral bouquets are obtained from Stop & Shop, Tupper Road, Sandwich.

Join us on May 26 at 7pm in the Parish Hall for "The Magic & Importance of Salt Marshes on Cape Cod." Carol "Krill" Carson will be to present information about the majestic beauty and ecological importance of salt marshes on Cape Cod. Krill is the founder and president of the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA), a volunteer non-profit that focuses on rescue, research, and educational outreach in the New England area. This is a free presentation by our **Caring for Creation Committee**; light refreshments will be served.

Calendar

Saturday, May 16

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 17

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

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

12noon AA, Parish Hall
6:30pm Ways & Means via
Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86559395776>

Wednesday, May 20

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church

7pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, May 21

12noon AA, Parish Hall
4-7 Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall)
6-7pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, May 22

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

Saturday, May 23

9:30am AA, Parish Hall
5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 24

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

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Misao Koyama, Music Director 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