



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

## Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

## An Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

## Invitation to Holy Communion

This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. Dipping the bread into the wine is discouraged for reasons of public health. Be assured the risen Christ is present in each element. To receive only one is to receive the fullness of grace. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

*An \* indicates that we invite you to stand as you are able*

***Bold** text is said by the assembly*

Prelude “Blessed Jesu, How Hast Thou Offended” S. Karg-Elert  
Gathering Hymn\* #448, O love, how deep, how broad, how high

*Presider* Blessed be the God of our salvation:

*People* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Collect for Purity in unison

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.

Kyrie S-91 with cantor

Music: From the Litany of the Saints; adapt. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*Cantor or Choir*      *All*      *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*All*      *Cantor or Choir*      *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The Collect for the Day

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet, Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 51 Responsively by whole verse

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness \***  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned \***  
**and done what is evil in your sight.**

<sup>5</sup> And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \***  
**a sinner from my mother's womb.**

<sup>7</sup> For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

<sup>8</sup> **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \***  
**wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

<sup>9</sup> **Make me hear of joy and gladness, \***  
**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>10</sup> **Hide your face from my sins \***  
**and blot out all my iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God, \***  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>12</sup> **Cast me not away from your presence \***  
**and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

<sup>13</sup> **Give me the joy of your saving help again \***  
**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence *Hymnal* 1982 #471, We sing the praise of him who died

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he 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 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 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.

Prayers of the People\* *The Leader and People pray responsively*

For the Church, may holy Lent be a season of repentance for harm done by the institution in  
cultural ignorance and spiritual immaturity.  
**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For the leaders of nations, may they seek peace and do justice for all creation.  
**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For a just and lasting peace for all those who make their home in the Holy Land.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For those who suffer the grief of sin and cannot forgive themselves. May they come to believe that with you there is mercy.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For those who suffer from the disease of addiction and cause pain to all who love them.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For the poor and oppressed, those experiencing homelessness or abuse. Give us the will to right the systems that deny human dignity.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For the sick and grieving whom we now name.

*Pause as the people speak*

Make us signs of your compassion and love.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

For all who have died—especially our beloved ones.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.**

### Cycles of Prayer

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer. In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Church in Wales. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Grace Church, Great Barrington; Chancellor of our Diocese, Donald Allison; CREDO; our Covenant Relationship With the RC Dioceses of Springfield & Worcester. In our town's cycle we pray for our artists and craftspeople. Among our members and friends, we pray for Deirdre Donaldson; Anne Ditzler; Ruah Donnelly; Frank Dufresne and Denise Kernan, Ashley, Bryan, and Jeffrey; and the Rev. Jane Dunning; Anne Dodge. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Prayer Team. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; In the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Confession

*The Celebrant says* Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbor and all creation.

*Silence may be kept.*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace\*

                    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People       **And also with you.**

Wardens' Welcome & Anointing for Healing



# The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem St. John's Madrigal Singers—#439, What wondrous love is this

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A\*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

*1982 Hymnal S -125 (Proulx)*

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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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, Almighty 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,  
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.

Breaking of the Bread 1982 Hymnal S-158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

**ALL:** In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

**CONGREGANTS ONLINE:** Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come.

**ALL: Amen.**

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.

Communion Solo Kristen Wickline *Hymnal 1982* #140, Wilt thou forgive that sin

*A period of shared silence*

Postcommunion Prayer\*

Let us pray.

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.

*Presider* Bow down before the Lord.

Lent 5: Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Forth *Hymnal 1982 #370*, I bind unto myself today

Dismissal\*

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude “Da Jesus, an dem Kreuze stund” Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

*Stay for coffee and conversation!*

Events

March 18: Forum committee meeting at 4 p.m. at Gloriosa's

March 23: Gathering of Jewish Community

March 24: Palm Sunday

March 26: Ashfield Trails at 5:30 p.m.

March 28: Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m.

March 26: Morning Prayer and Discussion of MLK's Where do we go from here? The Corner @ 10 a.m.

March 29: Good Friday, 6 p.m.

March 30: Easter Vigil, 7 p.m.

March 31: Easter, Special Easter offering

April 13: Forum: Moving Forward: from Incarceration to the Community, 8:30-1:30

Acknowledgements

- Eucharistic Prayer A, includes expansive language options approved for trial use
- *Enriching Our Worship 1*
- Service Music reprinted with permission from RiteSong.com
- *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*
- *The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version*

### Contact Us

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### Lay Leaders & Clergy

**Vicar:** The Rev. Vicki Ix, 362-0742 [communications@diocesewma.org](mailto:communications@diocesewma.org)

**Co-Senior Wardens:** Sue Craft, 628-0289 and Susan Todd, 628-3998

**Junior Warden:** Maddy Roberts

**Treasurer:** Raven Harris

**Clerk:** Lynnette Leidy Sievert

**Vestry:** Jane Wagener, Andrew Wickline

**Licensed Preachers:** Raven Harris, Andrew Wickline

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** Sue Craft, Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener

**Licensed Worship Leaders:** Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft

**Seminarian:** Elle Morgan

### Staff

**Organist:** Duane Nyman

**Director, Madrigal Singers:** Julie Meservey

**Parish Administrator:** Linnea McChesney email: [stjohnsashfield@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsashfield@gmail.com)

**Financial Administrator:** Amy Murray

**Sexton:** John Wickline

### Ministries

**Pastoral Care Team:** Sue Craft

**Liturgy Team:** The Rev. Vicki Ix

**Digital Ministry:** Ted and Kara Toothaker, Andy Wickline, Thad Bennett

**Buildings & Grounds Team:** Maddy Roberts

**Green Team:** Kristin Wickline

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Kristen Wickline

**LOVE in a Backpack:** Maddy Leue

**Bicentennial Celebrations:** Addison Hall