



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 5, 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.

*Bold text* is said by the assembly

*\*Stand as you are able*

Prelude “Fantasy in A Minor” J.S. Bach

\*Gathering Hymn *Hymnal 1982 #705*, As those of old their first fruits brought

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Gloria 1982 *Hymnal S-280*

*Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 *Responsively by whole verse*

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

<sup>2</sup> **With his right hand and his holy arm \***  
**has he won for himself the victory.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

<sup>4</sup> **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

<sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

<sup>6</sup> **Sing to the Lord with the harp, \***  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**

<sup>7</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

<sup>9</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.**

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the First Letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?


This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation


*Cantor*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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*Assembly*




Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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*Cantor sings verse*

O sons and daughters let us sing!  
The King of heaven, the glorious King,  
O'er death and hell rose triumphing.  
Alleluia!

*Assembly*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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\*Gospel

John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have

kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

*Rev. Vicki Ix*

*Shared silence*

\*Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Presider* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do**

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Presider* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Presider* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider.* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you strive to cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Sprinkling Rite cantors sings verses LEVAS #143, Wade in the water

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren." The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Wade in the wa - ter, God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter." and ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

The Prayers of the People

*Adapted from Planning for Rites and Rituals*

For the Church and all who minister to God's people, that we may embody the love of our risen Lord.

**Hear us, loving God.**

For our elected leaders, on whom the responsibility for the welfare of the most vulnerable rests.

**Hear us, loving God.**



For peace in troubled places, between nations, and among religious factions.

**Hear us, loving God.**

For those seeking work, just compensation, affordable housing and nutritious food on their table.

**Hear us, loving God.**

For the creation longing to be restored and for swift, decisive action by nations and corporations.

**Hear us, loving God.**

For the sick, the grieving and all who suffer from mental illness and addiction.

**Hear us, loving God.**

For all our beloved ones who live now in God's glory.

**Hear us, loving God.**

### Cycles of Prayer

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer. In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. Mark's, Leominster; Beloved Community Commission; Evangelical Education Society; National Episcopal AIDs Association (NEAA). In our town's cycle we pray for local merchants, business owners, and their employee. Among our members and friends, we pray for Lucy Leete and Kristen Elmes; Herb Libby; Sandy Lilly; Amy and Ben Murray, Ainsley and Charlie; Elle and Bryant Morgan; Linnea McChesney and Jasper, Freya and Saoirse; Jane Kaufman. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for The Parents' Circle and It Takes a Village. **Amen.**

*Presider concludes with a collect*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace\*

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

Wardens' Welcome & Birthdays/Anniversaries

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem St. John's Madrigal Singers—Rain down (J. Cortez)

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*

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 (Holy, Holy, Holy) S-130

*Deutsche Messe Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx*

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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The presider continues*

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.

The Breaking of the Bread S-154

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*And now we pray with our online congregants*

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008*

**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.**

*Presider* The gifts of God for the people of God!

Communion Hymn LEVAS #151, One bread, one body

Post-communion 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.

Sending Forth *Hymnal* 1982 #492, Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Easter Blessing

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the great Shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;

and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### Sung Dismissal

*Deacon*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

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*People*

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude “Trumpet Tune” John Stanley (1713-1786)

*Join us for coffee and conversation*

### Events

May 11: Bell ringing for Climate Change at 11 a.m.

May 12: Vestry meeting

May 19: Pentecost

May 26: Offertory dedicated to Vicar’s Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

### 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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### Leadership

**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

### 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