



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4, 2025

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. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive
- Venite App
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022

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

Bold text is said by the assembly

Prelude: "Lord, On Thee My Hope Is Stayed" Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Duane Nyman, Organist

*Gathering Hymn #460

Alleluia! sing to Jesus

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord 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 S-280

Powell

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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 Reading

Acts 9:1-6,(7-20)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled

with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30

Responsively by whole verse

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried out to you, ***
and you restored me to health.

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; ***
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

⁵ For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.

⁶ **Weeping may spend the night, ***
but joy comes in the morning.

⁷ While I felt secure, I said, “I shall never be disturbed. *
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”

⁸ **Then you hid your face, ***
and I was filled with fear.

⁹ I cried to you, O LORD; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

¹⁰ **“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? ***
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹¹ Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; *
O LORD, be my helper.”

¹² **You have turned my wailing into dancing; ***
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

¹³ Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Mark Hatch

Shared silence

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

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

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

***Sprinkling Rite** Streams of Living Water

Cyprian Consiglio

Streams of living water shall flow from within you.

God will wipe away ev'ry tear from your eye.

The Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, 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 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;
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.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Cycles of Prayer

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer: In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Church of Ireland. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. Mark's, Leominster; Loving the Questions Discernment Experience; Evangelical Education Society; National Episcopal AIDs Association (NEAA). In our towns' cycle we pray for farmers. Among our members and friends, we pray for Sylvia & Bob White; Ton Whiteside; John Wickline; Kristen & Andrew Wickline; The Rev. Ann & John Wood; Mark & Marie Zenick; Rachel Hinkel-Wang. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. **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

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem: The St. John's Madrigal Singers

#204 *Now the green blade riseth*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also 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 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.

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 S-130

Schubert/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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

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 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

Hurd

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 we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

ALL: Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Solo Kevin Blanchard - 'Forsaken once and thrice denied' (from the English Hymnal)

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.**

Easter Blessing

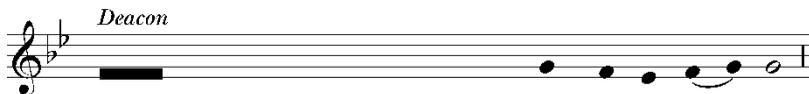
The Book of Occasional Services 2022

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.

***Recessional Hymn #189**

Love's redeeming work is done

***Sung Dismissal S-175**



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



al - le - lu - ia.



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

Postlude: "Postlude" Ralph Marryott (1908-74)

Duane Nyman, Organist

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

May 4: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

May 11: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is our supply priest

May 11: Ring the Bells for Climate Change 11am

May 11: Vestry Meeting

May 13: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

May 18: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is our supply priest

May 18: History Moment - Lucinda Brown presents Gordon Dean

May 25: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

May 25: Offertory dedicated to Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

CONTACT US

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Lay Leaders & Clergy

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

Junior Warden: Maddy Roberts

Treasurer: Raven Harris

Clerk: Lynnette Leidy Sievert

Vestry: Kevin Blanchard, Lucinda Brown,
Darlene Monds, Kay Spencer, 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: Lis Henry **email:**
stjohnsashfield@gmail.com

Financial Administrator: Amy Murray

Sexton: John Wickline

Ministries

Pastoral Care Team: Sue Craft

Digital Ministry: Ted and Kara Toothaker,
Andy Wickline, Jane Kaufman

Buildings & Grounds Team: Maddy
Roberts

Green Team: Kristin Wickline

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Kristen Wickline

LOVE in a Backpack: Jenny Wildermuth

Bicentennial Celebrations: Addison Hall