



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25, 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
- Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Venite App

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

Bold text is said by the assembly

Prelude: "Legende" Louis Vierne

Duane Nyman, Organist

***Gathering Hymn** LEVAS 120

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place

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, 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.**

The First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

Responsively by whole verse

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

² **Let your ways be known upon earth, ***
your saving health among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, ***
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth her increase; ***
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

⁷ May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:10,22-22:5

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night;

they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

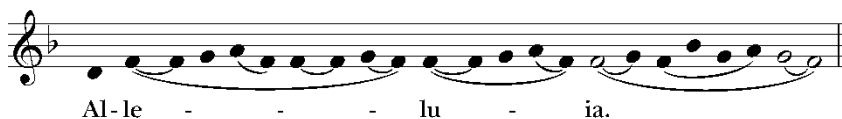
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Sequence Hymn #511**

Holy Spirit, ever living

***Gospel Acclamation S-70** *cantor intones*

After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Celebrant or by a Cantor, at successively higher pitches (one whole tone each time), the Congregation repeating it each time.



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Gospel

John 5:1-9

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

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Mark Hatch

Shared silence

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.

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 Anglican Church of Kenya. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. John's, Millville; Clergy living beyond the diocese; Reclaiming Hope: the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Episcopal Women's History Project; New England Synod of the ELCA. In our towns' cycle we pray for our schools, preschools, and all who work and learn in them. Among our members and friends, we pray for Deanne Brochu; Lucinda Brown; Preston Browning; Mary Bruffee; Don and Jane Buckloh; The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Dr. Robert Jonas, Sam. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our New Missions.

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.**

Wardens' Welcome & God Moments

Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

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 #513 *Like the murmur of the dove's song*

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 Hymn #711

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

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

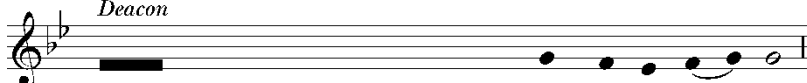
The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn #191


Alleluia, alleluia!

*Sung Dismissal S-175

Deacon




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



al - le - lu - ia.

People



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

Postlude: "Festivity on Holy Manna" Douglas Wagner

Duane Nyman, Organist

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

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

May 25: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

May 26: The Rev. Mark Hatch delivers the Memorial Day prayers in Ashfield 10am

May 27: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

June 1: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

June 7: St. John's Annual Audit 9:30am

June 7: Franklin County Pride Parade - Greenfield 12 noon

June 8: Vestry Meeting

June 11: Ring the Bells for Climate Change 11am

June 12: Backpack filling 2:30pm

June 15: History Moment - Helena Snow presents John Snow

CONTACT US

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Email: stjohnsashfield@gmail.com | **On the web:** stjohnsashfield.org |

Facebook: @stjohnsashfield

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