



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

## 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.

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

## Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- Eucharistic Prayer B, 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

## \*Gathering Hymn

*Hold Us In Your Mercy*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

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.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day*

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.**

*The First Reading*

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

Responsively by whole verse

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

<sup>2</sup> **If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \***  
**O LORD, who could stand?**

<sup>3</sup> For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

<sup>4</sup> **I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \***  
**in his word is my hope.**

<sup>5</sup> My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>6</sup> **O Israel, wait for the LORD, \***  
**for with the LORD there is mercy;**

<sup>7</sup> With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

*The Second Reading*

*Romans 8:6-11*

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\***Sequence Hymn** #508

*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

*The Gospel*

*John 11:1-45*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God

may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked

upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

*The Sermon*

*Rev. David DeSmith*

*Shared silence*

*The Nicene Creed*

*EOW p. 53*

**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 and the Son,  
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*

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*

We pray for all those in our cycles of prayer: In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Anglican Church of Korea. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield; Cathedral in the Night, Northampton; The Board of Examining Chaplains; The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF); Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church. In our towns' cycle we pray for our libraries, Historical Society, and Trails Committee. Among our members and friends, we pray

for The Rev. Mark H. Hatch; Lisa M. Henry; Bea Howes; Janice Howes; Pete Howes; The Rev. Victoria & Gosia Ix; Hannah Jarrell; Arnold Jones, Riley, Rowan. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Vestry Team. **Amen.**

*The people say the Lenten prayer for the Ashfield Churches Together Community – March 22*

**Holy One, in these waning moments of our Lenten days, grant us humility to see more clearly the lessons you have offered us and to hold them close to our hearts and minds. Amen.**

*Presider concludes with a collect*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Confession of Sin*

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
Opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and see only your will. 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*

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*Wardens' Welcome & God Moments*

## 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: St. John's Madrigal Singers

*When Jesus wept, the falling tear*

*Celebrant* God 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 our 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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-129

*Powell*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember Christ's death,**  
**We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**  
**We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with *[John and]* all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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-158

*Willan*

**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 Anthem Psallite C-29

*Those Who Love Me*

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.**

*Seasonal Blessing*

*Prayers over the People*

Bow down before the Lord.

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.

**\*Recessional Hymn #495**

*Hail, thou Once Despised Jesus!*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stay for coffee and conversation!*

## EVENTS

March 22: The Rev. David DeSmith is our supply priest

March 26: Lenten Compline Service - Online - Dine at 6:30pm, Service at 7pm

March 27: Love in a Backpack filling at the Corner House 3-4pm

March 28: Celebrate the Life of Rev. Michael Corrigan at Grace Church, Amherst 10am

March 29: Palm Sunday - The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

March 29: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

March 31: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

April 2: Maundy Thursday 6pm - The Rev. David DeSmith is our supply priest

April 3: Good Friday 6pm - The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

April 4: Easter Vigil Saturday 7pm - The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

April 5: Easter Sunday - The Rev. David DeSmith is our supply priest

April 11: Climate Action - Ring the Bells at St. John's 11am

April 12: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

**Would you like to make a donation to St. John's?** Please scan this code to donate by credit card, debit card, or with a PayPal account.

Thank you for your generous support!



## 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

**Assistant Treasurer:** Jody Skinger Hall

**Clerk:** Darlene Monds

**Vestry:** Lynnette Leidy Sievert, 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,  
Maddy Roberts

### *Staff*

**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:** Kristen Wickline

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Kristen Wickline

**LOVE in a Backpack:** Jenny Burke

**Bicentennial Celebrations:** Addison Hall

Would you like to support our Love in a Backpack program? Purchase items directly from our wish list by scanning this code:

Thank you!

