



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

April 28, 2024, 10:00 AM

St. John's Episcopal Church

297 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, Massachusetts



St. John's Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 28 <i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer: Rite II, <i>spoken</i> (in-person)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite II, <i>sung</i> (in-person & livestream)
Monday, April 29	6:30 pm	EfM Meeting
Thursday, May 2	6:00 pm	Compline, <i>spoken</i> (virtual)
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (in-person)
Sunday, May 5 <i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer: Rite II with Holy Eucharist, <i>spoken</i> (in-person)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite II, <i>sung</i> (in-person & livestream)
	11:30 am	Sermon Group

Prayer Requests

The Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for

*Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for

Churches of the Concord River Deanery
*St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton
St. Michael's Church, Holliston
St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton
St. Luke's Church, Hudson
Congregational Chapters of the
Episcopal Church Women*

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for

The Church of Bangladesh

Birthdays

*Jack Brewer 04/30
Sarah Moravick 04/30
Brendan McGee 05/02*

Pray for Healing: Ruppert, Alison, Sheila, Mary, Gail, Anne, Marina, Kevin, Flynn, Alec, Rose Marie, Andy, John, Christopher, Quintin, Phyllis, Jo, Jenny, Peter, Cara, Marco, Sara, James, Nicholas, Nico, Tom, Hannah, Joel, Kimberly, Shelbi, Derrick, Lynn, and Lordes.

Order of Service

Prelude

Solemn Processional

Robert A. Harris (b. 1938)

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn 457, “Thou art the Way, to thee alone”

St. James

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship 1 p 50

Collect for Purity

BCP p 355

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

All: **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.**

Pascha nostrum, WLP 879

Dorothy Papadakos

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

After the Reading, the following is said

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus*

The Choir sings Refrain; the Congregation repeats. The Choir sings Verses; The Congregation sings Refrain where indicated.

All the ends of the earth shall re -
mem - ber and turn to the Lord.

From *The Portland Psalter* © 2002, Robert A. Hawthorne. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those
who worship him.

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow
before him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
“May your heart live for ever!” **Refrain**

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations. **Refrain**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

30 They shall come and make known to a people
yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done. **Refrain**

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

After the Reading, the following is said

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 657, "Love divine, all loves excelling"

Hyfrydol

The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

Before the Gospel, the following is said

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the following is said

Presider: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Homily

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p 358

Please stand as you are able.

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.

*Please join in the **bolded** parts.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Alan and Carol, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

We pray for the Church in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; for The Church of Bangladesh; for St. John's Chapel, Groton School (Groton), St. Michael's Church (Holliston), St. Paul's Church (Hopkinton), St. Luke's Church (Hudson), and the Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women.

We pray for healing for **Ruppert, Alison, Sheila, Mary, Gail, Anne, Marina, Kevin, Flynn, Alec, Rose Marie, Andy, John, Christopher, Quintin, Phyllis, Jo, Jenny, Peter, Cara, Marco, Sara, James, Nicholas, Nico, Tom, Hannah, Joel, Kimberly, Shelbi, Derrick, Lynn, and Lordes.**

Please name others for whom you wish to pray, either silently or aloud.

Silence

We pray for those who have put themselves forward as nominees for Bishop of this Diocese and for those who will choose the next Bishop of this Diocese: **Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life: we pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Jack Brewer, Sarah Moravick, and Brendan McGee, and for those celebrating anniversaries this week.

Please name other thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our Creator;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Presider: Open our hearts, O God, to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

The concluding collect comes from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library Revised Common Lectionary.

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Presider: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Beloved, let us love

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching Our Worship 1 p 57

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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 Christ's death he has destroyed death, and by Christ's rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus and Benedictus S 130

Franz Schubert

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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 friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider: Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with Ever-Blessed Mary the God-Bearer, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 365

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem S 164

Schubert

Presentation of the Gifts

Presider: 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.

- All people are welcome to receive communion at God's table in this place. -

St. John's offers communion in both kinds (bread and wine).

If you would like to receive the wine, you are invited to drink directly from the chalice.

Due to public health guidelines, we ask that you not dip the bread in the chalice.

Please be reassured that communion is fully received if you receive the bread alone.

Communion Hymn 323, "Bread of heaven, on thee we feed"

Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt

The Prayer After Communion

Enriching Our Worship 1 p 70

Please stand as you are able.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 455, "O Love of God, how strong and true"

Dunedin

The Dismissal

Minister: Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Exultemus

June Nixon (b. 1942)

* * * *



LEADERS OF THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

Presider and Preacher: The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Rhys Bowen

Lector: Jane Huston

Usher: Rebecca Snow

Music Director: Jeffrey Mills

Altar Guild: Jane Huston

IT Master: Ken Sinclair

Wardens: Kristin Knudson and Laura Brewer

VP of the Day: Kristin Knudson

Counter: Sarah Moravick

Coffee Hour Host: Kristin Knudson

What Happened to the Confession of Sin?

Perhaps you have noticed that the Confession of Sin that typically follows the Prayer of the People (or, if we're using A Penitential Order, that comes toward the beginning of the service) has been missing. This is not a typo. The Book of Common Prayer rubrics (those italicized instructions) provide: "On occasion, the Confession may be omitted." (BCP p. 359). While the Book of Common Prayer rubric does not explicitly identify it as such an "occasion," there is long-standing precedent in Church tradition that the Confession of Sin is omitted during the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season. This is not because we stop sinning but because, in this season, we focus on the fullness of God's grace. Plus, we just spent the forty days of Lent focusing on the ways in which we fall short of the goodness God wants for and from us. Easter Season allows us to imagine what our life could be like centered on God's love rather than our shortcomings. The Confession of Sin will return to our liturgy in the Season after Pentecost.

Today's Women in Music

Throughout the Easter season, we will sing the Pascha nostrum (Christ our Passover) by **Dorothy Papadakos (b. 1960)**, who was the first woman organist at New York's Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, from 1990 until 2001. She is also a composer, concert organist, lyricist, and playwright. In the chant we sing today, she employs jazz-like, bold harmonies that she often uses in her silent movie accompaniments, for which she is well-known. Today's postlude was composed by **June Nixon (b. 1942, pictured here)**, an Australian composer, organist, and choir trainer. She has won numerous awards for her choral and organ works.



Saint John's Parish

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The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, *Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Dr. Carol J. Gallagher, *Assistant Bishop of Massachusetts*

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq., *Priest-in-Charge*
rev.michael.thompson.esq@gmail.com

Kristin Knudson & Laura Brewer, *Wardens*
Betsy Blagdon, *Treasurer*
Becky Snow, *Clerk*

Alastair Battson, Nancy Bowler, Robert Main,
Sarah Moravick, Elizabeth Seaman, Alexandra Stanton
Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Cathy Richmond Robinson, *Parish Administrator*

Licensed Lay Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:
Laura Brewer, Brian Goeselt, Marina Matuzek,
Abby Strayer, Tim Strayer, Jessica Zabchuk Dion