

St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts



Easter Day

April 5, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

1982 Hymnal #207

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing: Alleluia!
4. Sing we to God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
praise hymn all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Easter Acclamation:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be 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.

Kyrie Confession

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith:

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria

Hymnal S-278

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Acts of the Apostles* (10:34-43)

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm (118:1-2, 14-24)

Let us recite the psalm by alternating verses.

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 *Let Israel now proclaim, **
"His mercy endures for ever."
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 *There is a sound of exultation and victory **
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- 17 *I shall not die, but live, **
and declare the works of the LORD.

- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 *Open for me the gates of righteousness; **
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 *I will give thanks to you, for you answered me **
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 *This is the LORD'S doing, **
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Colossians (3:1-4)*.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence: *The Strife is o'er, the Battle done (vv. 1 & 2)*

Hymnal #208

Antiphon: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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| 1. The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia! | 2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
Let shout of holy joy outburst: Alleluia! |
|--|--|

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John (20:1-18)*.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings

lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Sequence Hymn: *The Strife is o'er, the Battle done (vv. 3 & 4)*

Hymnal #208

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| 3. The three sad days are quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to risen Head! Alleluia! | 4. He closed the yawning gates of hell,
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell!
Alleluia! |
|---|---|

Antiphon: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Homily

Fr. Walter Connelly

Nicene Creed

*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.

Prayers of the People:

Common Worship, Church of England

Lay Reader: We pray to the risen Jesus who shares our journey by leading the way.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

Jesus, Lord of life: *in your mercy, hear us.*

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry, and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life: *in your mercy, hear us.*

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way.

Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life: *in your mercy, hear us.*

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

We remember especially Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy,

Norma Cahill, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci,

Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, Jerica Hamre, and all those whom we hold in our hearts

before you this day.

Jesus, Lord of life: *in your mercy, hear us.*

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, especially those remembered with flowers and candles this Easter. Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life: *in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and lead us to heaven . Amen.*

Priest: God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death: fill your church with faith and hope, for a new day has dawned and the way of life stands before us; through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour. *Amen.*

Peace and Announcements

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
And also with you. Alleluia.

Invitation to the Offering

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Offertory Anthem: *Alleluia*

Stephen Sikorski

Doxology

(v. 3) Hymnal #380

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Hymnal S-128

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 the Blessed Mary Magdalen, Blessed Peter, Blessed John the Beloved Disciple and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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.*

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

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Hymnal S-165

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshiping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. 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. Amen.

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.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29). All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

Communion Hymn: At the Lamb's High Feast, We Sing

Hymnal #174

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing,
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred Blood for wine,
gives his Body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
2. Where the Paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.
3. Mighty victim from on high,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light;
now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.
4. Easter triumph, Easter joy,
these alone do sin destroy.
From sin's power do thou set free
soul's newborn, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise:
risen Lord, all praise to thee,
ever with the Spirit be.

Post-communion Prayer

*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:

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.

Dismissal:

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude:

Welcome to St John's Episcopal Church. All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Proceed up the aisle on the right, allowing room on the left for others to return. You may kneel or stand at the rail to receive. Most people receive the consecrated Host in the hands, and some receive on the tongue. We have not returned to the Common Cup but offer individual Communion Cups. Please deposit the empty cups in the tray as you return. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Weekly Prayer List

(Please help to keep this list current and kindly inform the office of any changes)

Week One of the Month:

Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Jerica Hamre

Week Two:

Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Anthony K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, and Joe W.

Week Three:

Erica Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Lisa P., Kathy Pothier, Tom & John Puckett, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, Bob Shaw, Nina Lafauci, and Janice Noseworthy

Week Four:

Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Kevin O'Connor, and Jesse Tucker

Easter Prayer List

Candles, Flowers, and Prayers offered in loving remembrance of:

The Felci Family: Joanne M., James A., Mildred P., and Paul & Elizabeth;
The Federici Family: Vincent, Vincent M., and Mildred; Theresa & Tommy Wales,
James Raker, Donnie & Eleanor Bernbie, and Edward & Louise Azzari ~ Doris & James
Smith ~ Lawrence LeBlanc ~ Joan Contarino ~ Ralph Selvitella, Helen & Warren LeGallo,
Ethel Penney, Helen & Lewis Stanhope, and Patricia O'Brien ~ Victoria & Valerie
Bidmead, and Courtney Nicolo ~ Edward, Christine, and John Holt; Victor and Teresa
Smith ~ Ann & John Falasca ~ Beulah, Stanley, and Gary Kanarkiewicz; Daniel Mullen,
Honey Mullen, Phyllis Leston, Alan Leston, and Richard Ruble ~ Russell Cutter, Eugene &
Josephine Poti ~ Bill, Allan, and Margaret St. Clair; Norman & Bertha Calderwood ~
The Cox Family: Bill, Garnet, Carol, and Bill; Richard & Dorothy Tarr, and Marilyn Tarr
Schiappa ~ Barbara & Mel Whitham, Doug Palazzo, Joseph & Josephine DiTrapano ~
Anna, Peter, and Myron Manoogian; Agnes & Coley Rochefort, and Elaine (Manoogian)
Espindle ~ The Kelly Family: Doris, John Sr., and John Jr. ~ Holmes & Margaret Hurl,
Charles & Marjorie Aston, Marcia Hurl Foote, and Helen Chase ~ The Davey Family:
Edward, Madelyn, John, Margaret, Frank, Eva, Frank Jr., and Arlene; Louis & Laurine
Seaboyer, Kevin Lancaster, Arthur & Marilyn Kenney ~ Virginia & Paul Day, Jean &
Joseph McBride, and Catherine Ferreira ~ Robert Simmons ~ Peggy Gibbs ~ Christine
Sentfleben, Ethel & Abraham Hashem, Hermione & Charles Mears ~ Arnold & Frances
White ~ Robert Lancaster ~ George & Mary Phelps ~ Scott J., Marcus, and Nancy Ralph
~ Jane Brierly ~ Frank & Mildred Beckford, John & Kathryn Sweny, and Judith Foss

In Thanksgiving

The McBride Children & Grandchildren

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Lay Reader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906