

# St. John's Episcopal Church



## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

### Prelude

Processional: *O for a thousand tongues to sing* (verses 1-4)

Hymnal #493

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy Name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.
4. He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

### Lenten Acclamation:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*God's mercy endures for ever.*

### 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 (sung response)

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.

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

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.

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

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

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.*

Collect of the Day

*A Prayer Book for Australia*

*Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Prophet Ezekiel* (37:1-14)

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

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 1 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.
- 2 *If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \**  
*O Lord, who could stand?*
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 *I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \**  
*in his word is my hope.*
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 *O Israel, wait for the LORD, \**  
*for with the LORD there is mercy;*
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:6-11)*

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.*

1. I am the bread of life; they who come to me shall not hunger;  
they who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me unless the Father draw them.

*Refrain: And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,  
and I will raise them up on the last day.*

2. I am the resurrection, I am the life. They who believe in me,  
even if they die, they shall live for ever.

*Refrain*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John (11:1-45)*.

***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.*

Sequence Hymn: *I am the bread of life (v. 5)*

Hymnal #335

3. Yes, Lord we believe that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God who has come into the world.

*Refrain: And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,  
and I will raise them up on the last day.*

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: With confidence and trust, let us pray to the Holy One of Israel.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness she may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer, especially 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, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For refugees, prisoners, and all in danger remembering especially the peoples of Iran and the Middle East; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For those whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,  
let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

For those who have gone before us in faith and walked the way of the cross, especially Esther Schaffner, Members of the Smith Family: James, Doris, George, Violet, and Mr. & Mrs. Otis Smith, and Mr. & Mrs. John A. Gould; let us pray to the Holy One.

*In your mercy hear us.*

*Priest:* God of compassion, you call us out of the bindings of death as your resurrection people: Make us ready to surrender the fear in which we hide to step into your future alive and unashamed; through Jesus Christ, the life of the world. **Amen.**

### Peace and Announcements

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

### 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 Hymn: *O Love of God, how strong and true*

Hymnal #455

1. O Love of God, how strong and true,  
eternal and yet ever new;  
uncomprehended and unbought,  
beyond all knowledge and all thought.
2. O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,  
we read thee in the sky above;  
we read thee in the earth below,  
in seas that swell and streams that flow.
3. We read thee best in him who came  
to bear for us the cross of shame,  
sent by the Father from on high,  
our life to live, our death to die.

4. We read thy power to bless and save  
e'en in the darkness of the grave;  
still more in resurrection light  
we read the fullness of thy might.

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.*

Giver of life, your Son has destroyed the power of death for all those who believe in him. Accept all we offer you this day and strengthen us in faith and hope; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all the living *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Common Worship, Eucharistic Prayer E

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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word, you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. [in the highest].  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. [in the highest].*

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine out poured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.*

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Savior of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, gentle Prince of Peace, grant us peace [grant us 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.

Post-communion Prayer

*Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Lenten Blessing:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional: *Lord, who throughout these forty days (vv. 1-4)*

Hymnal #142

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,  
and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy Word.
4. And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy Passiontide,  
yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus! with us abide.

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

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.

**Announcements**

**Parish Calendar**

- |        |     |   |
|--------|-----|---|
| Mar 29 | Sun | Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, 9am                 |
|        | Sun | Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, 11am (Winthrop)     |
| Apr 2  | Thu | Maundy Thursday Agape Supper, 6pm                       |
|        | Thu | Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7pm                            |
| Apr 3  | Fri | Good Friday Liturgy, 12pm                               |
|        | Fri | Good Friday Liturgy, 7pm (Winthrop)                     |
| Apr 4  | Sat | Great Vigil of Easter, 5:30pm (Winthrop)                |
|        | Sat | Vigil Feast in Parish House, 7pm (Winthrop)             |
| Apr 5  | Sun | Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Winthrop Beach, 6:10am      |
|        | Sun | Easter Day, 9am   |
|        | Sun | Easter Day, 11am (Winthrop)                             |
| Apr 12 | Sun | Holy Eucharist with Baptism of Myles D. Maestranzi, 9am |
| Apr 18 | Sat | Spring Craft Fair, Parish House, 10am-2pm (Winthrop)    |

## Announcements

### 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

## Current St. John's Officers & Vestry for 2026

**Officers:** Donna Manoogian, Sr. Warden, John Rogalski, Jr. Warden, Paul Felci, Treasurer, James Duracin, Asst. Treasurer, and Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. 'Dibby' LeBlanc (2027), Colleen Marcotte (2028), and Diana White (2029)

### Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge  
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director  
Colleen Marcotte, Layreader, and Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

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