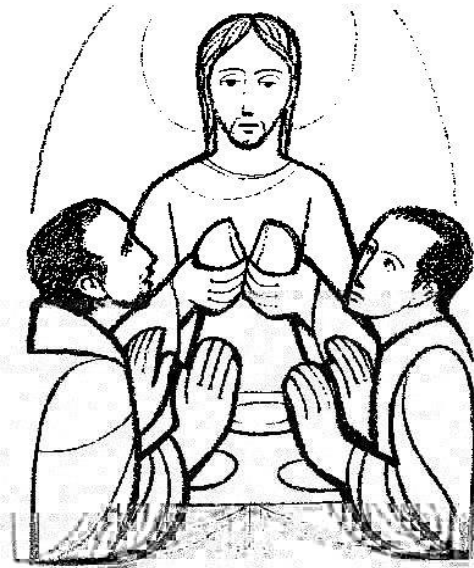


St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord*

Hymnal #178

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. <i>Refrain</i> | 3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. <i>Refrain</i> | 4. Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. <i>Refrain</i> |

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.*

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, 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* (2:42-47)

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

Psalm 23

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.*
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 *Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The First Letter of Peter* (2:19-25)

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been

called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

Sequence Hymn: *Good Shepherd, you know us* (tune: ST. DENIO #423) Christopher Idle

1. Good Shepherd, you know us, you call us by name,
you lead us; we gladly acknowledge your claim.
Your voice has compelled us; we come at your call,
and none you have chosen will finally fall.
2. Good Shepherd, you warn us of robbers and thieves;
the hireling, the wolf, who destroys and deceives;
all praise for your promise on which we can stand,
that no-one can snatch us from out of your hand.
3. Good Shepherd, you lay down your life for the sheep;
your love is not fickle, your gift is not cheap.
You spend your life freely, you take it again;
you died, so we live - we are healed by your pain.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke* (24:13-35).

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

Sequence Hymn: Good Shepherd, you know us (v. 5)

5. At one with the Father, you made yourself known:
'I am the Good Shepherd', at one with your own.
You loved us before we had heeded or heard;
by grace we respond to your life-giving word.

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 Leader: Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.

Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world, that we all may agents of justice and defenders of mercy.

Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and inspire our leaders to be crafters of peace especially in the Middle East.

Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow, remembering especially Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Steve & Kathy, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Carol Ann, Patty, Holly, Kelly, and all those whom we hold in our hearts before you this day.

Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises, especially Departed Members of St. John's Adult Fellowship.

Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us to employ your gifts in building God's reign.

Lord, hear us. ***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Priest: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of the Father's sheep: teach us to hear your command, so that all people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Shepherd of Israel. ***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.

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: *The King of Love, my Shepherd is* (vv. 1, 2, 5 & 6)

Hymnal #645

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

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 loving care, you spread before us the table of life, and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and our shepherd.
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. 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
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hymnal S-128

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 worshipping 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

*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.*

Recessional: *Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing*

Hymnal #334

1. Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing;
glory be to God on high! Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this Eucharist declaring yours the final victory.
2. Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word; by your Blood new life receiving,
in your Body, firm believing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
3. Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free. Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in every nation, may we faithful followers be.

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.

Parish Calendar

Apr 28 Tues No Bible study (*resumes May 5th*)

May 5 Tues Deadline for lobster roll orders (*by 5pm*)

May 8 Fri Lobster Roll Sale, 7am-Noon (*see flyer*)

May 16 Sat Annual Book, Cookie, and Plant Sale (*Winthrop, starts at 9am*)

June 13 Sat Annual Yard Sale, 9am-1pm

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, and Allison Gray

Week Two:

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

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, Steve P., 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



Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge

Stephen Sikorski, Music Director

Sandy Mears, Lay Reader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

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