

# St. John's Episcopal Church



## Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026 - 9am Holy Baptism with Eucharist

### Prelude

Processional: *We enter your Church*

Tune: CRADLE SONG (eg, #101)

We enter your Church, Lord, through welcoming doors.  
We enter it, too, where you claim us as yours.  
It's here at the font that you offer a sign  
You tell us, "My children, you're baptized! You're mine!"

O God you have called us, inviting us in;  
You've made us your household and freed us from sin.  
From youngest to oldest, we find in this place  
Your waters of welcome, your family, your grace.

We've heard here your welcome and also your call;  
Your Spirit inspires us to share Christ with all.  
The life we receive here is life we can share;  
We'll carry your message of love everywhere.

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Opening Acclamation:

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

There is one Body and one Spirit;

*There is one hope in God's call to us;*

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*One God and Father of all.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Collect of the Day

*A Prayer Book for Australia*

*Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked: Draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Savior, 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* (2:14a, 22-32).

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

## Psalm 16

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
- 2 *All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \**  
*upon those who are noble among the people.*
- 3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 *Their libations of blood I will not offer, \**  
*nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.*
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 *My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \**  
*indeed, I have a goodly heritage.*
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 *I have set the Lord always before me; \**  
*because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.*
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 *For you will not abandon me to the grave, \**  
*nor let your holy one see the Pit.*
- 11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

## Second Lesson:

A reading from *The First letter of Peter (1:3-9)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so

that the genuineness of your faith~ being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire~ may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Sequence Hymn: *We Walk by Faith (vs. 1 & 2)*

1982 Hymnal #209

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear  
From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe him near.
2. We may not touch his hands and side,  
Nor follow where he trod;  
But in his promise we rejoice,  
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (4:12-23)*.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him,

"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sequence Hymn: *We walk by faith (v. 3)*

Hymnal #209

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound,  
To call on you when you are near, And seek where you are found.

Homily

Fr. Walter Connelly

Presentation of the Candidate:

*Parents and Godparents: I present Myles Daniel Maestranzi to receive  
the Sacrament of Baptism.*

*Priest:* Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought  
up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.*

*Priest:* Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow  
into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.*

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel  
against God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt  
and destroy the creatures of God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*I do.*

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*I do.*

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*I do.*

*After the candidate has been presented, the Priest addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Myles Daniel in his life in Christ?

People *We will!*

Let us join with Myles Daniel who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

### The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*I will, with God's help.*

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*I will, with God's help.*

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*I will, with God's help.*

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*I will, with God's help.*

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*I will, with God's help.*

#### Prayers for the Candidates

*Worship Leader:* Let us now pray for *Myles Daniel* who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Deliver *Myles*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Open *his* heart to your grace and truth.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Fill *him* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Keep *him* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Teach *him* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Send *him* into the world in witness to your love.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bring *him* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

As we welcome *Myles Daniel* into the Church of Christ, let us also remember before

the throne of grace all those within God's family who are in need of prayer: Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Anthony K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Joe W., and Debbie Rossetti; for these and all those whom we hold in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us also remember before God all those who have gone before us in faith, especially Robert & Ruth Collins, Carl & Marjorie Nelson, Richard Tarr, and Marilyn Tarr Schiappa. Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Priest:* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

#### Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### The Baptism

Myles Daniel, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Myles your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *him* to the new life of grace. Sustain *him*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *him* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Myles Daniel, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

### Sharing the Light of Christ

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

*Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.*

### 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 Hymn: *Baptized in Water*

tune: BUNESSAN (eg, #8)

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
Faithfully now God's praise we sin.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,

Dead in the tomb with Christ our king:  
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Doxology

Hymnal #380 (v. 3)

*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

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,*

Sanctus 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 Virgin Mary, Blessed John the Evangelist 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.

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: Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to Heaven tune: HYMN TO JOY (eg, #376)

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He, who on the cross a victim, for the world’s salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
see the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;  
once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above;  
there in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of love;  
hear the word of peace he brings us, see the wounded hands and side!  
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified. (*Hymn to Joy*)

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 14 Tues Vestry Meeting, 6pm (in person and on Zoom)**

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

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

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

**Announcement(s)**

## 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, 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, 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 ~ Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

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