

St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts



Feast of the Ascension

May 17, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *Hail the Day that sees Him rise*

Hymnal #214

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!
3. See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!
4. Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. 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:

Common Worship, Church of England

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption, yet we have forgotten your pain and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated.

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

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life, yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar, and the empty promises of a sinful world.

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

Lord Jesus, you have ascended to your Father and our Father, your God and our God; plead there at the right hand of God for our forgiveness and entry into the fullness of his presence.

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

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath 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

A Prayerbook for Australia

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: Clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Acts of the Apostles* (1:1-11)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

Psalm (47)

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 *For the LORD Most High is to be feared; **
he is the great King over all the earth.

- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 *He chooses our inheritance for us, **
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 *Sing praises to God, sing praises; **
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 *God reigns over the nations; **
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 *The rulers of the earth belong to God, **
and he is highly exalted.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter to the Ephesians (1:15-23)*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Sequence Hymn: See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph (vv. 1 & 2)

Hymnal #215

1. See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph; see the King in royal state,
riding on the clouds, his chariot, to his heavenly palace gate!
Hark, the choirs of angel voices joyful hallelujahs sing,
and the portals high and lifted to receive their heavenly King.

2. He who on the cross did suffer, he who from the grave arose,
he has vanquished sin and Satan; he by death has spoiled his foes.
While he lifts his hands in blessing, he is parted from his friends;
while their eager eyes behold him, he upon the clouds ascends.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke (24:44-53)*.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Sequence Hymn: See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph (v. 3)

Hymnal #215

3. Thou hast raised our human nature, on the clouds to God's right hand:
there we sit in heavenly places, there with thee in glory stands.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne;
mighty Lord, in thine ascension, we by faith behold our own.

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: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand, and made him the head over all things for his body the Church: hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world. Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us, that we may use them to your glory, and the building up of the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy: *hear our prayer.*

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth: hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem. Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace, and may strive for the reconciliation of all people in his kingdom of justice and love.

Lord, in your mercy: *hear our prayer.*

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age: hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work. Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us, that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy: *hear our prayer.*

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us: hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need, remembering especially Erica Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Ralph Nasuti, Lisa P., Carol Patroliia, Kathy & Keelan Pothier, Tom & John Puckett, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Gary Battite, and all those whom we hold in our hearts before you this day. May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them, that they may find grace to help in time of need, and rejoice in his salvation.

Lord, in your mercy: *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us: hear us as we remember before you all those whose earthly sojourn is over, and whose life is now hidden in Jesus with you, especially Departed Members of the Auger Family, Frances Tranfaglia, Martin & Nora Casey, George & Etta Hannigan, Nora Morrissey, and Gwendolyn Fairchild. Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

Merciful Father, *accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Priest: God unheld by word or wall: lift us from dullness and cynical contempt; make us ready for your Spirit of transforming power; and turn our hearts to the mending of the world, through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. *Amen.*

Peace and Announcements

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. 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: *A Hymn of glory let us sing*

(tune: LAST UNS ERFREUEN, eg #400)

1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs thru-out the world shall ring: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia, alleluia! and with his faithful foll'wers see their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. To whom the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia, alleluia! “This is the Savior,” thus they say “This is his glorious triumph day.”
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. “You see him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia, alleluia! Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.*

Eternal God, our Savior Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time.
Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in his transfigured life;
for the sake of 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 you dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection, he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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 of Nazareth, 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.*

Ascension Blessing:

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. Amen.

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional: *Crown him with many crowns* (vv. 1, 3, 4, 5)

Hymnal #494

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

4. Crown him of lords, the Lord,
who over all doth reign,
who once on earth, th'incarnate Word,
for ransomed sinners slain,
now lives in realms of light,
where saints with angels sing
their songs before him day and night,
their God, Redeemer, King.

3. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

5. Crown him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in worlds above;
crown him the King, to whom is given,
the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns,
as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,
for he is King of all.

Dismissal:

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the ascended 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 Cycle of Prayer

(Please help to keep this list current and inform the office of any changes – thank you.)

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, Nina Lafauci, Steve P., Janice Noseworthy, and Gary Battite

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

Parish Calendar:

May 16 Sat Annual Book, Cookie, and Plant Sale (*Winthrop, starts at 9am*).
May 24 Sun Pentecost Eucharist with Baptism of Alana E. Cento at 9am.
May 28 Sun Trinity Sunday Eucharist with Baptism of Liam A. Duracin at 9am.
June 13 Sat Annual Yard Sale, 9am-1pm

Participants in this Service:

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

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