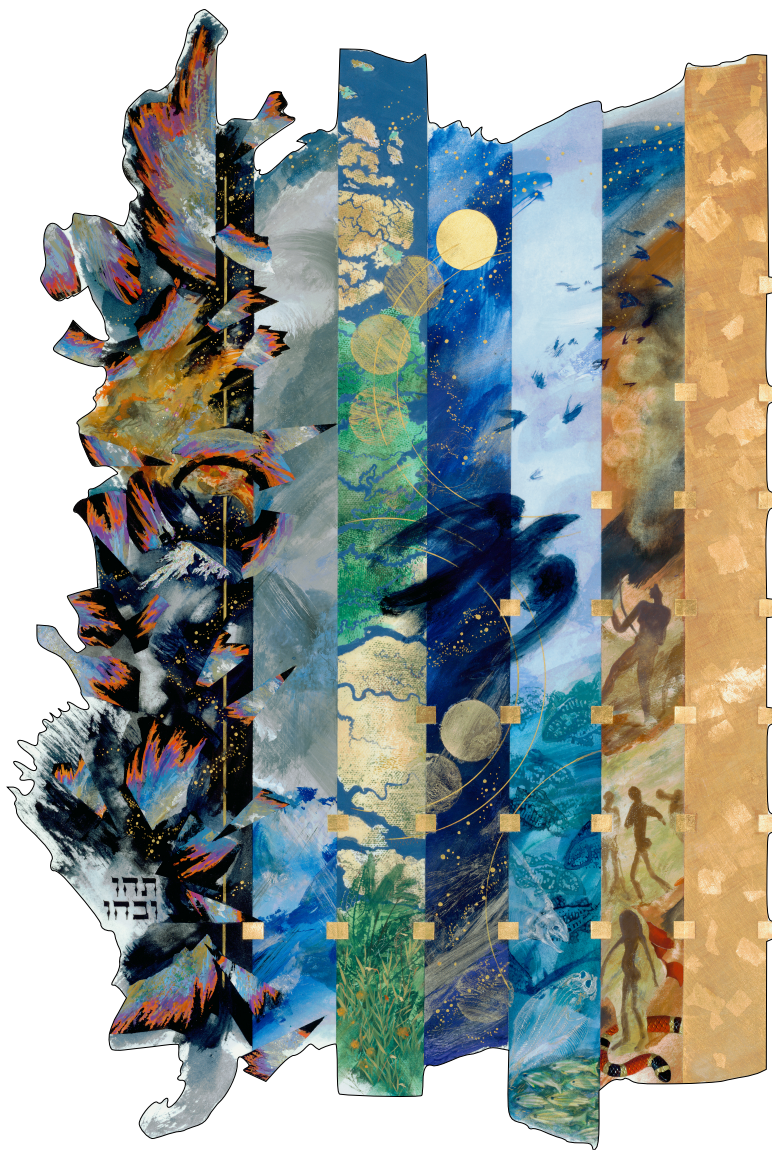


THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

TRIDUUM: THE SACRED THREE DAYS



MARCH 30, 2024 - 7:00 PM
St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex, Connecticut

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE

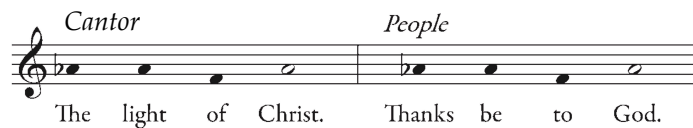
The congregation gathers in the amphitheater for the Lighting of the New Fire. This New Fire represents the victory in Christ of light and life over darkness and death. In the darkness, fire is kindled.

Presider Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire. The people's candles are lighted from the Paschal candle. Then, the Paschal candle and the cantor lead the procession into the church, pausing three times to sing:



The Paschal candle is placed in its stand. The Exsultet is sung, an ancient Christian hymn that has been sung at the Great Vigil since the seventh century. The people remain standing.

The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! O Universe, dance around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the victorious trumpet of Salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendor of your creation, radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King! Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you! Darkness vanishes for ever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you! Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.



The Cantor continues and congregation responds:

It is right and good that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father Almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death paid the price of Adam's sin. And reconciled us once again to you.

Refrain



Glo-ry to you for ev-er.

For this is the Passover feast when Christ the true Lamb of God is slain whose blood consecrated the homes of all the faithful.

Refrain

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery, and leading her safely through the red sea.

Refrain

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Refrain

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

Refrain

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.

Refrain

Most blessed of all nights, evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Refrain

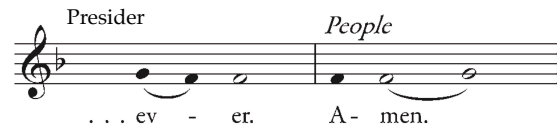
Night truly blessed when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth. And all creation reconciled to you.

Refrain

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Grant that this Easter candle may make our darkness light.

Refrain

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory. Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presider Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved the people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The people sit for the lesson and canticle.

The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

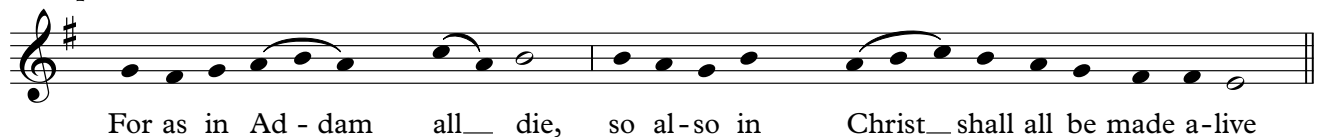
Canticle: Pascha Nostrum

Tone 7

A cantor sings the antiphon at the beginning, then the congregation and choir immediately repeat it, singing it again where indicated; a cantor sings the verses to plainsong tone. Please remain seated.

Antiphon: AP

Antiphon



Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
 therefore let us keep the feast,
 Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Antiphon

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
 death no longer has dominion over him.
 The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
 but the life he lives, he lives to God.
 So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
 and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Antiphon

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Antiphon

Collect, standing

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people sit for the lesson and psalm.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 Deus roster refugium

Anglican Chant (Luther)



- 1 God is our ¹refuge and ¹strength, *
a very ¹present ¹help in ¹trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the ¹earth be ¹moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled ¹into the ¹depths of the ¹sea;
- 3 Though its waters ¹rage and ¹foam, *
and though the mountains ¹tremble ¹at its ¹tumult.
- 4 The LORD of ¹hosts is ¹with us; *
the God of ¹Jacob ¹is our ¹stronghold.

- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the ¹city of ¹God, *
the holy habi¹tation of the ¹Möst ¹High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be ¹over¹thrown; *
God shall ¹help her at the ¹break of ¹day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the ¹kingdoms are ¹shaken; *
God has spoken, and the ¹earth shall ¹melt a¹way.
- 8 The LORD of ¹hosts is ¹with us; *
the God of ¹Jacob ¹is our ¹stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the ¹works of the ¹LORD, *
what awesome ¹things he ¹has ¹done on ¹earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in ¹all the ¹world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and ¹burns the ¹shields with ¹fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that ¹I am ¹God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be ex¹alted ¹in the ¹earth.”
- 12 The LORD of ¹hosts is ¹with us; *
the God of ¹Jacob ¹is our ¹stronghold.

Collect, standing

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

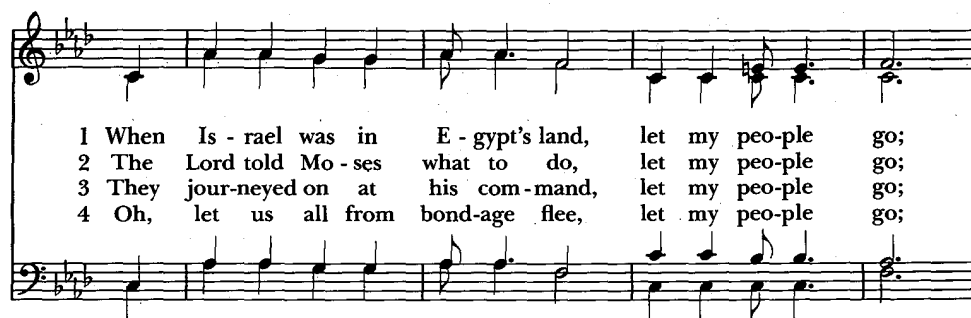
The people sit for the lesson.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

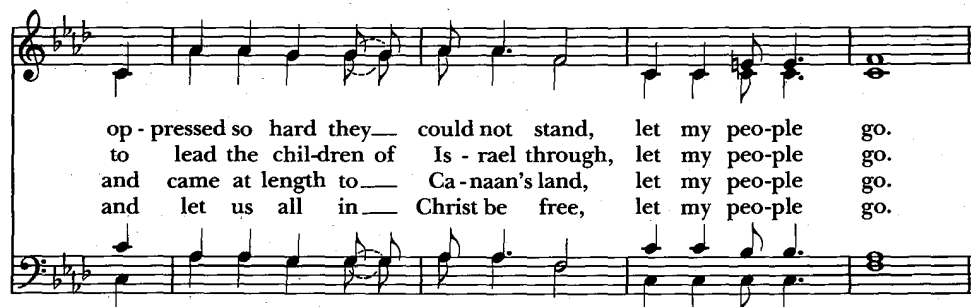
Exodus 14:10–31, 15:20–21

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

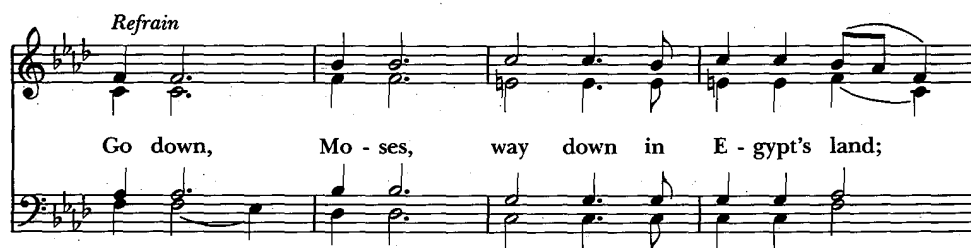
People **Thanks be to God.**



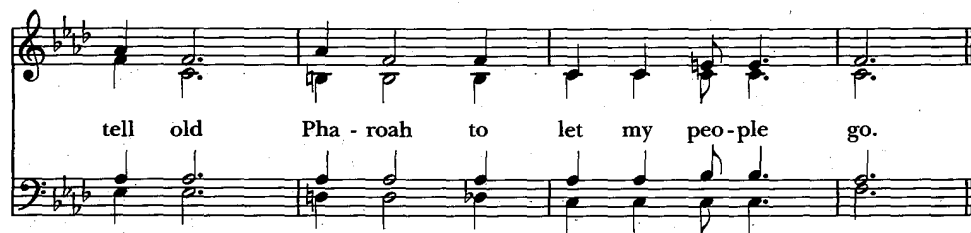
1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3 They jour-neyed on at his com-mand, let my peo-ple go;
4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, let my peo-ple go;



op - pressed so hard they— could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
to lead the chil-dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
and came at length to— Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
and let us all in— Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.



Refrain
Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;



tell old Pha - roah to let my peo-ple go.

Collect, *standing*

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sermon, seated

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

A quiet time for reflection follows the sermon.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate, seated

- Presider* The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
- Sponsor* I present Diana Quinn to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Presider* Do you desire to be baptized?
- Candidate* I do.
- Presider* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
- Candidate* I renounce them.
- Presider* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
- Candidate* I renounce them.
- Presider* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
- Candidate* I renounce them.
- Candidate* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
- Sponsors* I do.
- Candidate* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
- Sponsors* I do.
- Presider* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
- Sponsors* I do.
- The congregation is invited to stand.*
- Presider* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Diana in her life in Christ?
- People* **We will.**
- Presider* Let us join with Diana who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant, standing

- Presider* Do you believe in God the Father?
- People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
- Presider* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- People* **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.**

<i>Presider</i>	Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
<i>People</i>	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.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of the earth and every human being?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?
<i>People</i>	I will, with God's help.
<i>Presider</i>	May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the Candidate, *standing*

<i>Presider</i>	Let us now pray for Diana who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Open her heart to your grace and truth.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Send her into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Intercessor Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Presider 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, *standing*

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God 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

Diana, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her 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.**

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

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.

The Asperges

Anthem at The Asperges God in Mine Eternity

A. Bullard

God to enfold me, God to surround me, God in my speaking, God in my thinking. God in my sleeping, God in my waking, God in my watching, And God in my hoping. God in my life, God in my lips, God in my soul, God in my heart, God in mine eternity.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION

The candles at the Altar are now lighted in silence from the Paschal Candle.

The Saint John's Bible Pentateuch Volume One is replaced with Gospels and Acts Volume Six.

Easter Acclamation, *standing*

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The people now blow out their candles. Bells are rung continuously, as all sing the hymn.

Hymn 207, *standing* Jesus Christ is risen today

EASTER HYMN

The Collect, *standing*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3–11 (Read in Spanish)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 199, standing Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

ST. KEVIN

Holy Gospel Mark 16:1-8, *standing*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel is proclaimed.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The ministers and people greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Offertory Sentence

Presider Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received.

Please be seated for the offertory anthem.

Anthem **And I saw a new heaven**

E. Bainton

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

The musical notation is presented in three staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-125

Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 ...



The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-169

My flesh is food indeed

R. W. Irwin

Cantor or Choir
 My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
All
 deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my
All
 flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them. My
 flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please ask an usher or someone nearby to request that Communion be brought to you.

Communion Motet Alleluia

R. Sowash

Postcommunion Prayer, standing

Presider Let us pray.

**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.**

The Blessing, standing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

ENGLEBERG

The Dismissal

The musical notation for the Dismissal consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Leader and the bottom staff is for the People. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Leader
Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People
Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude Toccata from Symphony No. 5

C. - M. Widor

Image in the bulletin from *The Saint John's Bible*

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Liturgical Notes Regarding the Use of Incense

The use of incense is biblical and liturgical. The Lord instructed Moses on how to use incense to mark and keep space sacred. In liturgy, incense is used to symbolize the act of purification and sanctification. We cense people and things that we want to make and keep holy by our prayers. The smoke, as the psalmist reminds us, is a sign of the prayer rising up so the blessings can come down.

The smell and smoke cloud in the room brings to mind the upper room, a city called heaven, and all things that take us to higher ground. It brings to mind solemnity and mystery of communing with God almighty.

When we see incense at liturgy, it reminds us that our prayer rises to God like the smoke from the censer, purifying our worship, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and make us holy.

EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC

Given by:

Linda Bierrie

Bill Chatman and Family

Connie Cliffe

Tony Custodio

Pam DuPont

Wesley Henry and Adam Swinney

Jim Hill and Jennifer Stassen

Nancy Haslam

Christopher and Jennifer Miller

Mrs. Susan D. Murphy

Jim Scala

Gay and Ron Tigner

Carolyn W. Timmerman

Peggy and Howard Tuttle

Charlie and Maggie Walden

Marlana White

Elisa C. Young

Given by

Charlie and Maggie Walden

Tom and Betsy Whidden

In Memory of:

Peter Bierrie

Helen Chatman

Helen Thomsen

Roger James

Bill Atwater

Fred Cliffe

Sandra Custodio

Gordon and Jones Families

Our grandparents

Jean Hill

David W. Haslam

George and Amelia Miller

Evan Dorman

Sheila Dorman

Charles M. Murphy Jr.

Gale Scala and Richard Scala

Greyson Diver Reamer

Larry Timmerman

Our parents

Margaret Mason

The Hyland Family & Gert Boland

In Thanksgiving

Our family

Best Easter wishes

Announcements

THIS SUNDAY — EASTER FLOWER DELIVERY

After the 8 and 10:15 AM services, please take a moment to brighten a parishioner's day who is on the pastoral care list! Address cards for these parishioners will be on the Parish Hall counter and a card from St. John's. If you are willing to deliver Easter flowers to one or more of these parishioners, please take their address card and one of the cards from St. John's and write your name next to theirs on the pastoral care list on the clipboard so that we know who is delivering. Thanks for your help and Happy Easter!

OPEN HOUSE AND NEWCOMER RECEPTION

Sunday, April 21st — 5 PM service directly followed by reception

Are you new to St. John's Episcopal Church? Do you want to know how to become a member or how to become involved? Maybe you've heard about *The Saint John's Bible* and wondered - What is it?

Newcomers are invited to join us in the Parish Hall (church library) for a welcoming reception and an informal introduction to *The Saint John's Bible*. The clergy, vestry, and staff will be present to welcome you. We will have refreshments. For those interested in the Bible, docents will give a small introduction.

SUNDAY FORUM AT 9 AM | RUMINATIONS ON EXILE: THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH IN THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE AND CONTEMPORARY ART

*Sunday, April 14 — 9 AM in the Parish Hall
Led by parishioner Laurel V. McLaughlin*

Laurel V. McLaughlin, PhD (she/her/hers) is a writer, curator, art historian, and educator.

Her work explores research-based sculpture, installation, new media, and social practice works activated by performance concerning formal liminalities, globalized migration, and ecological networks. McLaughlin is a Curator and the Director of the Collective Futures Fund at Tufts University Art Galleries.

Learn more about Laurel V. McLaughlin by visiting her website (<https://lvm.cargo.site/>).

TAIZÉ SERVICE | THURSDAY, MAY 9 AT 7 PM IN THE CHURCH

Thursday, May 8th, marks Ascension Day in our liturgical calendar. This evening we will have a special worship service in the style of Taizé at 7 PM. Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay) is a prayerful form of worship noted for its simple yet rich and meditative character. The Taizé worship tradition finds its roots in the ecumenical French monastic community of Taizé, founded in 1940. This ecumenical community receives visitors from across the globe of many denominations and seeks to unite all forms of Christianity. The Taizé service is a contemplative worship experience of meditation, reflection, liturgical readings, and music. There is no preaching, and the experience comes alive through the active participation of all assembled by focusing and deepening our faith through the power of prayer.

The heart of the body of music offered at this service often takes the form of ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and aims to center prayer. Simple in nature, Taizé music is designed to move our prayer from the head to the heart. If you have worshiped at a Sunday evening service at St. John's, you have likely experienced one of these short chants. This service provides time to get away from our busy week and experience the contemplative and quieting power of prayer.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, May 19 — All services

The Feast of Pentecost marks 50 days after Easter. It's the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and take the light of Christ with us back out into the world.

At St. John's, we are constantly reminded of the Holy Spirit this season, as the dove mobile flies again! Many thanks to Carol Beisser and her team for getting the doves strung and on the frames. Thanks to her team for securing the frame. And, to all who helped make doves to be used this year or carefully stored for next year.

This special project is unique to this congregation and requires lots of help and coordination. We also encourage everyone to wear red this Sunday as it symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. It could be a shirt, a tie, a blouse, a dress, a skirt, a scarf, or a necklace. Let's fill the sanctuary with the color red!

ESSEX MEADOWS SERVICES

Rev. Kate and the St. John's team will be at Essex Meadows on the second Monday of every month at 11:00 AM in Hamilton Hall to celebrate Eucharist or lead a Bible Study.

Monday, April 8 (Preacher: Rev. Wilk Miller)

Monday, May 13

Monday, June 10

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*

kate@stjohnsessex.org / 860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Priest Associate*

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*

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Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*

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Allison Fresher, *Minister of Worship Life*

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Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*

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Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching*

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Christina Rutland, *Seminarian Intern*

christina.rutland@yale.edu

Manuel Matute, *Sexton*

Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*

Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*

Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*

Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

Nat Eddy, *Outreach Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*

Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*

Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*

Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*

Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy, Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 AM

“Come As You Are” Worship Service — 5 PM

TUESDAYS | Bible Study, *Parish Hall* — 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

THURSDAYS | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS | Morning Prayer — 10:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426

860.767.8095 | www.stjohnsessex.org

