

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on Crimond

Simon Peberdy

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 334, standing Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are 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.**

Glory to God S-278 *Gloria in excelsis*

W. Mathias

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is sung by the Choir. Please remain seated.

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

J. Goss

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.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 663, standing **The Lord my God my shepherd is**

CRIMOND

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30, standing

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Singing Lullabies

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

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, *standing*

Intercessor Trusting in our Good Shepherd's Easter victory over sin and death, let us offer our prayers to God.

Intercessor For all who serve the church by preaching, praying, and shepherding those in need. We pray for our presiding bishop Sean, our bishops Jeff and Laura, our interim pastor Wilk, and our newly called rector Elaine, that they may serve the Lord with gladness and lead your people with good courage. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Intercessor For all who tend to the dying, hungry, and destitute. We pray for those affected by war and violence and for those who seek to provide aid and justice, that peace will be realized under the gentle rule of the Good Shepherd. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Intercessor For mothers and all women who courageously love, guide, and care for their children. We give thanks that they point us to your tender care for all the children of the world. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Intercessor For all gathered here today, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud and silently (*silence is kept*)...May we all receive abundant life through your shepherding love. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Intercessor In remembrance of all those who have touched our lives and now are at rest, especially our mothers and those we now name aloud and in the silence of our hearts (*silence is kept*)...May we trust that the Good Shepherd leads them to living water. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Intercessor O wondrous God, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace, *standing*

Presider The peace of the risen Christ be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements, *seated*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

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

Anthem "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

E. Bairstow 1874 – 1946

The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his And he is mine for ever. Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul he leadeth, And where the verdant pastures grow With food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me, And on his shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me. Thou spread'st a table in my sight; Thy unction, grace bestoweth: And O what transport of delight From thy pure chalice floweth! And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house for ever.

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

In keeping with ancient tradition and Easter joy, the people are invited to remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer and to receive Holy Communion throughout the Easter season.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 sing 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 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:

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

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 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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread



The Invitation to Communion

Presider 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.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, cross your hands over 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, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 343 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

ST. AGNES

Prayer after Communion, *standing*

Presider Let us pray.

People **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*

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight. And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 478, *standing* Jesus, our mighty Lord, our strength in sadness

MONK'S GATE

The Dismissal

Presider Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude Prelude in Bb, BWV 560

J. S. Bach

Easter Liturgical Notes

During the Easter season, St. John's will observe a number of changes in our liturgical practice:

- 1-We will stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer and when we receive Holy Communion;
- 2-There will be no Confession of Sin during these days of Easter (of course, should you wish to confess your sins, please arrange a time with our pastor; also, please see "The Reconciliation of a Penitent," pg. 447 in the Book of Common Prayer).

These changes are ways we give voice to the total joy of the Easter season. Rather than emphasizing contrition, sinfulness, and restraint, we celebrate the wondrous joy of Christ's resurrection.

As always, should you have any questions, please see our interim pastor, Wilk Miller.

St. John's Prayer List

Pat Brainard, Jinny Buracchi, Max Bowers, Brandon, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Ed Donovan, Sherley Furgueson, Jeff Going, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Erna Jensen, Pauline Kezer, Ken Kemer, Brigida Matute, Astrid Pensa, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Jimmy Savoie, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Kathe Woodside.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary Bowers in celebration of Mother's Day and in thanksgiving for the lives and gifts of all women.

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies 10 - 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall

May 13

The Very Strange Easter Ending of Mark's Gospel with Wilk Miller

May 20

How the Disciples Were Turned Around by Christ's Resurrection with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

May 27

How We Catch Fire and Are Turned Around with the Holy Spirit with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

Tuesday Night Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall — May 13, 20, and 27

Before Galatians became scripture, it was a letter.

It was a letter written by Paul to a congregation he had founded, a congregation of gentiles who were being convinced by other christian missionaries that to be a proper follower of Jesus, you had to be Jewish. Since the early church was still trying to figure out what Jesus meant, this could be expected, but Paul is not happy about it — no, he is not. In the argument he makes in defense of the Gospel he preached, we can see the working out of what we understand Christianity to be — this is one of the fundamental texts of our religion.

I'm going to try something different in this class. Galatians was meant to be read aloud — not many people back then were able to read, and, even now, it is easier to understand when spoken. So we are going to be reading aloud - if you have been itching to overemote, this class might be your big chance.

You're Invited: Newcomers' Reception – RSVP Today!

Are you new to St. John's or haven't had a chance to attend a newcomers' event yet? We'd love to welcome you at our early summer social on Sunday, June 1, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club. Come enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks, friendly conversation, and stunning waterfront views—all in a relaxed, no-pressure setting. Meet fellow parishioners, clergy, Vestry, and Newcomers' Committee members as you learn more about our vibrant church family. Please RSVP to Meghan Wrinn at meghan@stjohnsessex.org or sign up at the table in the Narthex by May 25. We can't wait to see you there!

**Remembering Our Military: Memorial Day
Sixth Sunday of Easter — May 25**

Help us remember members of the military who served and have died since Memorial Day last year. Their names will be included in the meditation garden at the front of the church on Memorial Sunday. Email or text Marlene Going the name of the person, the branch of the military in which he or she served and the person's date of death. (email: mjgosxct@gmail.com; text: 860-581-0533).

If you are new to the parish and have relatives or friends who previously died in service to this country or since, please provide their name, branch of service, and conflict in which served so that we may add them to our parish military lists. These will appear in the parish hall or in the church on Memorial Sunday.

The deadline for submitting the above is Sunday, May 18.

Remember and Celebrate

Come together on Sunday, May 25, following each service as we lay a wreath at the foot of the cross in the Memorial Garden in remembrance of the deceased who have served our country. Join us afterward for a reception in the parish hall between services in celebration of the ten year ministry we have shared with the Old Lyme VFW providing assistance to retired servicemen and women with a variety of needs. During the reception we will receive an update on some of these.

Sunday, June 1

The Right Rev. Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut

**Forum: Questions and Responses
Parish Hall — 9:00 a.m.**

The Right Rev. Laura Ahrens will preside and preach at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. In addition, she will lead a "Questions and Responses" forum at 9:00 a.m., offering an opportunity for learning and discussion with light refreshments.

Pentecost Sunday — June 8, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Pentecost is almost here, and St. John's is ready to celebrate the Holy Spirit with joy and warmth! This lively feast commemorates the moment the Holy Spirit rushed into the early church like a mighty wind, bringing courage, unity, and those iconic tongues of flame. Often called the "birthday of the Church," Pentecost is the perfect time to gather as a community and rejoice in the Spirit's renewing power. Don't forget to dress up and wear red!

Available Sunday Altar Flower Dates

There are many dates available for 2025! If you want to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or remember a loved one with your church family, please contact Chelsea DiDonato at 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or chelsea@stjohnsessex.org.

Dates Available:

June 1, June 22, June 29, July 27, August 10, August 31, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19, December 7, December 14, December 21, December 28

Start Spring Cleaning for Rummage Sale

It is spring cleaning time, so now is the time to prepare for our Annual Rummage Sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m,

Opportunities for you to help:

Start packing away items you want to donate (please be sure they are clean).

Volunteer (contact Lois Blood Bennett at loisbb@gmail.com))

Unfortunately, we are unable to store items for you this year.

Acceptable Items: house hold and decorative items, antiques and collectables, clothing, shoes, belts, scarves, etc, vintage wear, collectible artwork, sporting goods, tools and garden equipment, bicycles, jewelry (including kids jewelry), and boutique items.

Unacceptable: toys, books, textbooks, magazines, linens, bedding, decorative pillows, cushions, electronics (TVs, computers, etc), exercise equipments.

Seeking Volunteers — A Sacred Place

A Sacred Place (ASP) is a nonprofit organization supporting incarcerated women at York Correctional Institute in Niantic, CT. ASP offers transformative programs that help women reconnect with their families, find spiritual direction and build hope for the future.

They are currently seeking compassionate volunteers to support various programs, including family interaction support through their Storybook and Caregiver & Me programs. In addition, ASP needs qualified individuals to support spiritual direction through its Houses of Healing program. Your time and skills can make a real difference in the lives of women seeking healing and growth. (If you cannot volunteer inside a correctional facility setting, there are still many meaningful ways to help!)

Interested in volunteering? You can learn more about our mission and initiatives on ASP's website: asacredplace.org. Please reach out to Allison or Ann, their Co-Executive Directors, at info@asacredplace.org.

Bill's Blessings

Support Bill's Blessings, a ministry that provides essential hygiene and household items to those in need. Everyday necessities like soap, toothpaste, and laundry detergent can be found affordably at local stores, while larger items like paper towels and toilet paper can be ordered in bulk and shipped directly to St. John's. Donations may be placed downstairs in the Undercroft for distribution to Soup Kitchen guests. For questions, contact the office, speak with an Usher, or connect with Mary Bowers. Thank you for your generosity!

Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries: Westbrook Food Pantry

Each week, St. John's delivers your generous donations to the Westbrook Food Pantry, part of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. Let's keep the momentum going by contributing non-perishable items from their current wish list, including cereal, juice, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, white rice, dried beans, protein bars, and breakfast items. Donations can be placed in the Cross Street hallway near the offices. For questions, please contact the office or speak with an Usher. Thank you for your continued support!

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller, *Interim Pastor*
wilk@stjohnsessex.org / 860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*
chelsea@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x. 10

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*
anthony@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x.17

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*
meghan@stjohnsessex.org

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*
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
John Rogers, *Treasurer*
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*
Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Stephanie Patterson, *Vestry Clerk*; John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Tony Custodio, Leigh Dorrington, Nat Eddy, Peter Holland, Patti Pickering, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 11:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426
860.767.8095 | www.stjohnsessex.org