



THE FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2026
10:00 AM

A warm welcome to all who come to worship at St. John's this beautiful day. If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and place in the offering plate.

There is no wrong way to worship. The people's responses are in bold and instructions for sitting, standing, and kneeling are in italics. We invite you to participate in the way that feels most comfortable and authentic to you.

Prelude

The Word of God

Hymn 348

Lord we have come at your own invitation

Sung by all.

O quanta qualia

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant 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.

Gloria, *next page*

Sung by all.

Powell

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

6 1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace ___ to his peo - ple on

12 earth. 2. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y ___ God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

18 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord

22 God, Lamb of God. 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have

27 mer - cy on us; 5. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

32 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, ___ you a - lone ___ are the

36 Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most ___ High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God ___ the Fa - ther. A - men.

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

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

Psalm 130

Antiphon sung by all.

¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

²If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?

³For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

Antiphon

⁴I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.

⁵My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

Antiphon

⁶O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;

⁷with him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Antiphon

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn, verses 1 & 2

Precious Lord take my hand

Sung by all.

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows— drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws—

1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
2. near, When my life is al - most gone;
3. near, And the day is past and gone;

1. — Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
2. — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
3. — At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

1. light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
2. fall, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
3. hand, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.

The Gospel

John 11:1-45

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

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

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Sequence Hymn, verse 3

Precious Lord take my hand

Sung by all.

The people are seated.

The Sermon

The people stand as able.

The 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.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant Brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God dwells in you. Let us appeal to our God, saying, "We call to you, O Lord; *Lord, hear our voice.*"

Lector Breathe new life into your Church, O Lord. Where our bones are dried up, where our hope is lost, cause your life-giving breath to enter. Give us confidence in the truth that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us.
We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

Lector Many are they who wait for you, O Lord. Speak into the souls of those suffering throughout the world, a word of hope. Speak into the souls of those who cause suffering, a word of dignity. We pray for those under attack at home and abroad, that wars may cease and we may all know your peace. *Silence* We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

Lector Creating God, it is the wind of your Spirit that sweeps across this planet. Renew and refresh your creation; bring forth newness in dead places. *Silence* We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

Lector With you, O Lord, there is plenteous redemption. Restore the hope of this city. Renew our trust that you have a life-giving future in mind for us. *Silence* We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

Lector With you, O Lord, there is mercy. Consider well the voice of those who call out from their depths. As they wait for you in their pain and sorrow, give life to their mortal bodies by your healing Spirit. We lift up those on our prayer list and those we name silently or aloud. *Pause* We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

Lector God, we trust your Son Jesus to be for us resurrection and life. Give to the dead your life. Assure the living with the promise of resurrection. *Silence*
We call to you, O Lord;

People Lord, hear our voice.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as able. Silence is kept for reflection.

Together God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The people stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are seated.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we now prepare ourselves for the gift of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, both in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. Here at St. John's, it is tradition that people stand as the elements are brought forward and are seated once the bread and wine are on the altar.

Offertory Anthem

Justitiae Domini

*Justitiae Domini rectae,
Laetificantes corda
Et dulciora super mel et favum:
Nam et servus tuus ustodit ea.*

*The law of the Lord is just,
his ways are sweeter than honey,
sweeter than honey from the honeycomb:
for your servant that keeps them.*

Doxology

Hymn 380, verse 3

Sung by all.

Old 100th

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Together

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, —

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, —

Hea-ven and earth are full — full — of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes — in the name of the Lord. — Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People AMEN.

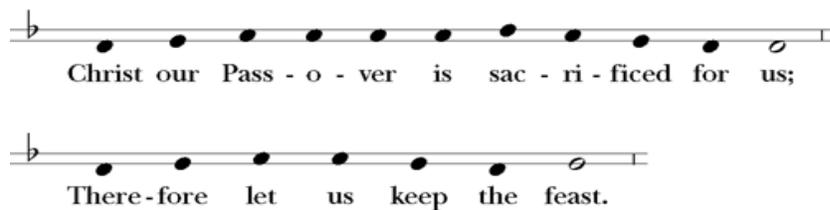
The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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 Anthem

Sung by all.



The Invitation to Holy Communion

The people are seated. Please move at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the priest. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. While we believe that it is most meaningful when done as a baptized Christian, no one will ever be turned away from God's table.

Communion Music

O Salutaris hostia

*O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.*

*O saving Victim,
Who open the door of heaven
Our foes abound;
Give us strength, grant us aid.*

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The people stand as able.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 635

If thou but trust in God to guide

Sung by all.

Wer nur den lieben

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. JOHN'S AND BEYOND

Saturday, March 28th

- 9 AM Mulching and Church Yard Clean-up
- 10 AM Palm Cross Workshop in Parish Hall

Palm Sunday, March 29th

- 8 AM Palm Sunday Service (no procession)
- 10 AM Palm Sunday Service with procession from Memorial Garden

Monday, March 30th

- 12 PM Eucharist at St. Paul's, Petersburg

Tuesday, March 31st

- 12 PM Eucharist at Christ & Grace, Petersburg

Wednesday, April 1st

- 9 AM Morning Prayer at St. Paul's, Petersburg
- 12 PM Eucharist at St. Stephen's, Petersburg
- 7 PM Tenebrae at Christ & Grace, Petersburg

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

- 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service with Foot-Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3rd

- 12 PM Good Friday Service (no music or communion)
- 1-6 PM Veneration of the Cross available in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting)
- 7 PM Good Friday Service with music (no communion)

Holy Saturday, April 4th

- 10 AM Holy Saturday Service
- 7 PM Great Vigil of Easter at St. Paul's, Petersburg

Easter Sunday, April 5th

- 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service at Chester Methodist Annex
- 7:30 AM Potluck Breakfast at St. John's
- 10 AM Easter Service
- 11:15 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour Celebration

**All events at St. John's, Chester unless otherwise noted.
If it is listed here, you are warmly invited!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday, March 25th, 1 PM—Wednesday Refresh: Book study open to all.
5 PM—Lenten supper
6 PM—Wednesday Refresh: Same content from 1 PM.
Sunday, May 17th—Bishop's Visitation*

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