



**Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM and 9:30 AM**  
**The Fourth Sunday after Easter**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**May 11, 2025**

**Families with young children**

A worship bag is available for your child in the Narthex (lobby of the church).  
These bags contain activities and materials to help your child engage in the worship service.

**Prelude**

**Holy God, we praise Thy name**

Setting by Barbara Harbach

All stand in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.

**Processional Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#366, The Hymnal 1982**

**Holy God, we praise Thy name**

Words: Para. the Te Deum, Sts. 1-4,  
Ignaz Franz (1719-1790), tr. Clarence Walworth (1820-1900)  
Sts. 5-7, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)  
Music: Grosser Gott

1 Holy God, we praise thy name!  
Lord of all, we bow before thee!  
All on Earth thy sceptre claim,  
All in Heav'n above adore thee;  
Infinite thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is thy reign.

2 Hark! the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising!  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord;  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

3 Lo! the apostolic train  
Join thy sacred name to hallow!  
Prophets swell the loud refrain,  
And the white-robed martyrs follow,  
And from morn to set of sun,  
Through the Church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name thee,  
Though in essence only one,  
Undivided God we claim thee;  
And adoring bend the knee,  
While we own the mystery.

**Opening Acclamation**

p. 355 Book of Common Prayer

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Officiant

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.**

**Gloria in excelsis**

**S-278, The Hymnal 1982** (spoken at 7:45 AM; sung at 9:30 AM)

Setting by William Mathias

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.

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of the Acts

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Appointed: 23 (*read in unison*)

p. 612, Book of Common Prayer

- 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: A reading from the Book of Revelation

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Refrain:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give Praise to his Name.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. **[Refrain]**

3 We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live for ever. **[Refrain]**

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation. **[Refrain]**

### The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

John 10:22-30

**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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sequence hymn continued*

4 Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior

**Refrain:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give Praise to his Name.

*All are seated as invited by the preacher.*

### The Sermon

The Rev. Mawethu Ncaca, Assoc. Rector

*All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.*

*All stand in body or spirit.*

### The Nicene Creed

p. 358, Book of Common Prayer

**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 Form VI**

p. 392 Book of Common Prayer

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence.*

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

**People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops of the Diocese of North Carolina; and all other bishops and other ministers;

**People For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially: Carol, Tammy, Cynthia, Brian, Paul, Jane, Moe, William, Carole, and all those we name to you now...(you may lift up the names of others in need).

*Silence.*

Leader Hear us, Lord;

**People For your mercy is great.**

Leader We thank you Lord, for all the blessings of this life; and give special thanks for those in our parish celebrating birthdays this week, especially; Elizabeth McDuffie, Ron Freeman, Carole Friedman, Duane Vetter, Roger Collins, David Bennett, Laura Santos, and Evan Graber.

*Silence.*

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

**People And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom...(you may lift up names of those who have died).

*Silence.*

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People Who put their trust in you.**

*Silence.*

*The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.*

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

*Please be seated.*

## Welcome & Parish Announcements

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

*If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at [www.stjohnswf.org/give](http://www.stjohnswf.org/give) OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

### Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

### Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Text by George Herbert/Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Arrangement by Tony Alonso

CANTATE

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife;  
Such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length;  
Such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part;  
Such a heart as joys in love.*

*All stand in body or spirit.*

### The Doxology

*(7:45 am—spoken)*

**All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.**

*(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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 God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth....

...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:

**The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy)**

**S-128** (front of hymnal)

Setting by William Mathias

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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.**

*The Celebrant continues.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation ...

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All           We remember his death,  
              We proclaim his resurrection,  
              We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues.*

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....

...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.**

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

**All           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.**

*All stand in body or spirit.*

**Fraction Anthem**

setting by Gerald R. Near

**S-155, Christ our Passover** (front of hymnal)

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Communion of the People** (please sanitize your hands before coming forward)

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher.

At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

**Communion Hymn** (9:30 AM)  
**#645, The Hymnal 1982**

**The King of love my shepherd is**

Words: Henry W. Baker  
Music: St. Columba

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The King of love my shepherd is,<br>whose goodness faileth never;<br>I nothing lack if I am his,<br>and he is mine for ever.                 | 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill<br>with thee, dear Lord, beside me;<br>thy rod and staff my comfort still,<br>thy cross before to guide me. |
| 2 Where streams of living water flow,<br>my ransomed soul he leadeth,<br>and where the verdant pastures grow,<br>with food celestial feedeth.  | 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;<br>thy unction grace bestoweth;<br>and oh, what transport of delight<br>from thy pure chalice floweth!     |
| 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,<br>but yet in love he sought me,<br>and on his shoulder gently laid,<br>and home, rejoicing, brought me. | 6 And so through all the length of days<br>thy goodness faileth never:<br>Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise<br>within thy house for ever.     |

*All stand in body or spirit.*

**The Postcommunion Prayer** (for those who have shared in Communion in person)

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All 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.**

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion** (For those worshiping with us remotely)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. 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 Celebrant blesses the People.*

**(9:30 AM) All children and youth here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the following hymn. Our youth will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.**

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode;  
on the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See! the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, when such a river  
ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.

3 Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner,  
light by night, and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which he gives them when they pray.

4 Blest inhabitants of Zion,  
washed in the Redeemer's blood!  
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,  
makes them kings and priests to God.  
'Tis his love his people raises  
over self to reign as kings:  
and as priests, his solemn praises  
each for a thank-offering brings.

### **The Dismissal**

Youth Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Postlude**

## **We offer and commend the following prayer for use during the week**

### **Prayer for St. John's Transition**

Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

*Ever-present and Holy God, as you continue to invite new people into St. John's, we ask your ongoing guidance and blessing upon us, that we may always become more fully the people and congregation you would have us to be. Keep our hearts deeply grounded in your divine love, that we may grow in steadfast love and gentleness for one another. Inspire our leadership with wisdom and creativity to navigate the ongoing changes that lay before us. In this season of transition, we particularly pray for our Sr. Warden Camille Stell, vestry, staff, search committee, our Interim Rector, Rev. Pat Grace, and our eventual new rector. Fill all of us with courage, kindness, and patience as we walk the Way of Love with one another and with the broader diverse community around us. All this we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns in each of us every day. **Amen.***

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