



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30 a.m.

May 10, 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;
after the service speak to one another.*

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

Alleluia Christ ***IS*** risen! Not Christ was risen, the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, walked among the people he knew and loved, and continued to minister to old and new friends alike, and then ascended to the right hand of the Father to take his place, and to bring the very flesh of his humanity into the Triune God-Head is an incredible thing to consider! There is a wonderful children's song often sung at VBS celebrations. The lyrics are as follows: "1, 2, 3 Jesus is alive. He died for you and me. But on day 3, Jesus rose again. Yeah, Jesus is alive!"

Did you all get the nuance in the lyrics and my theme for this reflection? Jesus is alive! We do not worship a dead man who was a great moral teacher, nor do we worship the relics of a bygone religion, buildings, or the way things used to be! No, we worship a living God who is constantly pouring out his grace to the world so that we might be saved by accepting his unconditional love!

We have just come through a wonderful Lenten journey. On the First Sunday of Lent, we listened as Jesus faced temptation in the desert. There, He refused every lie that tried to define Him apart from the Father. That story prepared us to hear Easter's truth: resurrection is not only God raising Jesus, but God restoring our identity as beloved children.

From the wilderness, we moved to Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, where he spoke of being born again of the Spirit. On Easter, we see what that new birth looks like. In the Resurrection, God shows us the life he has in store for his people—a life where hope rises even in darkness.

We also heard of the Samaritan woman, burdened by shame, to whom Jesus offered living water. Her life changed through encounter, not judgment. Easter proclaims that same truth: Christ meets us in our dry places and offers water that never runs out.

We saw the man born blind receive his sight, reminding us that Easter opens our eyes to see God at work where we once saw emptiness.

And at Lazarus's tomb we heard Jesus cry, "Come out!" If Christ could call Lazarus from the grave, then his own rising is fulfillment. Easter is God's answer to every longing for hope.

Jesus knows you and me on the most intimate level, and he loves each of us beyond our comprehension. As we all reflect on the empty tomb on Easter Day, we must remember that Jesus is alive, and he lives so that we might have life with him in his eternal glory.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "The Rev. Christian M. Wood" with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

VOLUNTARY *Adagio e dolce (from Sonata No. 3 BWV 527)*
The people stand as the Ministers enter

J.S. Bach

Processional Hymn 386

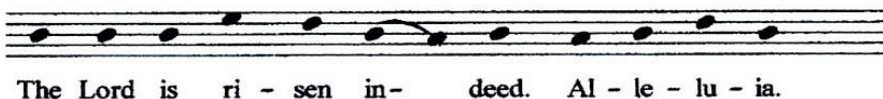
Cornwall

PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant



People



THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS S-278

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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul, standing in the middle of the Are-opagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might seek after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead.

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

GRADUAL Psalm 66:7-18 *Sung by the choir*

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

*O praise our God ye people
 and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
Who holdeth our soul in life
 and suffereth not our feet to slip.
For thou O God hast proved us
 thou also hast tried us like as silver is tried.
Thou broughtest us into the snare
 and laidest trouble upon our loins.
Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads
 we went through fire and water
 and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.
I will go into thine house with burnt offerings and will pay thee my vows
 which I promised with my lips and spake with my mouth when I was in trouble.
I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices with the incense of rams
 I will offer bullocks and goats.
O come hither and hearken all ye that fear God
 and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.
I called unto him with my mouth
 and gave him praises with my tongue.
If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart
 the Lord will not hear me.
But God hath heard me
 and considered the voice of my prayer.
Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer
 nor turned his mercy from me.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13-22

Lector A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*All elementary-aged students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to
Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall*

SEQUENCE HYMN 428

Irish

THE GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that

day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

All stand

Father Andrew Lazo

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and people

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 (*Form III*)

The people kneel

The Leader and people pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Additional petitions may be added here

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

All Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us
and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.**

All stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit for the announcements

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daughters of the King Service of Admission

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Blessed be the God and Father — S.S. Wesley

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen.

The people stand

Doxology with Alleluias

Laast uns erfreuen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
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 people kneel

Celebrant

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:

Celebrant and people

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant and 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is said

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem S-154

David Hurd

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. If you are not baptized or choose not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. Please follow the direction of the ushers, and inform them if you need communion brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine). You may receive the host and then sip from the chalice, receive the host only, or receive by intinction. For intinction, a member of the clergy or a chalice bearer will dip the host into the chalice and place it directly on your tongue. Even if receiving in one kind, please remain at the altar rail until the chalice has passed.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

or with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

Communion Motet

If ye love me — Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever, e'en the Spirit of truth.

Communion Hymn 513

Bridegroom

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel

Celebrant and 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 SOLEMN BLESSING

Celebrant

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting 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 God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal

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

The people stand

Processional Hymn 344

Sicilian Mariners

VOLUNTARY *Postlude in D minor*

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are bid today and throughout the week for:

All bishops and other ministers: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; and the clergy and staff of our Parish

Those who govern: Donald, our President; Ronald, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. James' House of Prayer, Tampa; St. John's, Tampa; St. Mark's, Tampa; St. Mary's, Tampa; St. Catherine's, Temple Terrace; Holy Innocents Church, Valrico; St. Paul's Wesley Chapel, and St. Elizabeth's, Zephyrhills

Our Companion Dioceses: Dominican Republic, Georgia, South Carolina, and Western Louisiana

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (United)

Also remembering in prayer: Our Parish Day School, our Pastoral Care Team, healthcare workers, first responders, and all who serve the common good, peace in Ukraine and the Holy Land

Members of our armed forces deployed abroad and their families: Rich, Mike, Jake, Matthew, David, Tyler (Libya) and Brandon

Those celebrating the anniversary of their birth:

May 10: Aaron Welch, Bryson LeBel

May 11: Kali Bradley, Robert Curtis

May 12: Pierce White, Paul Shoukry, Malloy Lacktman

May 13: Skip Eckhard, Abigail Weekley

May 14: Beth Rugg, Greg Orcutt, Payne Riffey, Kevin Blewitt, Naomi Stracey

May 15: Lee Casey, Andrew Rollins, Hannah Swartz

May 16: Priscilla Grotheer, George Leach, Dorothy Levy, David Karpan, Jeff Mitchell

The sick and others for whom our prayers have been especially requested:

Maureen and Ken Johnston; Jackie Faircloth and family; Jeff, Pam, Shailee, and Courtney; Anna, her family and her medical team; Jayce Hicks, Richard, Michael Wood, Tor, Collin, Sam, Lee, David, Absley, Jim B., Katy, Carey, Scott, Jack, Miriam, Suzanne, Minnie, Will, Armando, Berta, Mary, Susan, Ellie, Patrick, Ann, Gwen, Helen, David W. Reffue, Melinda, Sunny, Davis, Damian, Dave, Charlotte, Alexis, Amy, Cole, Sue, Peyton, Lee, Holly, Stephanie, Brandon, Halley, Lisa, Anne, Diana, Christopher, Carmen, Dickinson/French family, Harry and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

For all the faithful departed

John R. Ackermann

Sanford B. Dickinson

Nelson Schniewind

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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STJOHNSTAMPA.ORG

THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

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NORMAN F.J. ALLEN III (2027)

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CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD

XVII Rector

THE REVEREND ANDREW LAZO

Associate Rector

THE REVEREND CAROLINE F. DEVITT

Priest Associate for Evangelism &

Communications

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ

Deacon

SIMON J. MORLEY

Organist and Director of Music

LAURIE D. LAWTHER

Parish Administrator

AYANA S. GRADY

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

SAMANTHA SANTOS

Parish Coordinator

THE REVEREND DONALD P. GOODHEART

Retired Priest in Residence

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

Retired Priest in Residence

HUGH A. R. JEBSON

Head of St. John's School

NOAH SCRIBNER

Sexton