



# 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 25, 2025**

### 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! The Easter Season is my favourite time to be in Church. There are no better hymns than the celebratory Easter hymns in our hymnal. This fifty-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is meant to fill our hearts with joy and our eyes with tears of happiness. This season is all about reminding us what Jesus accomplished for us, that he has defeated death and is freely offering all people eternal life with our creator and Father in Heaven.

I invite you all to take the fifty days of Easter as seriously as you took the forty days of Lent. That means celebrating for the entire season of Easter. Celebrate your life, family, church, friends, and most importantly, your relationship with Jesus Christ, your redeemer. Invite Jesus into all that you do and remember to be joyful. When I was young, I asked a priest what he thought heaven was like. He told me, "Heaven is perfect joy!"

This season of Easter is a time for all of us to practice being joyful. Make a plan every day to find joy in your life. In finding joy, we will also see God acting in our lives. Let's all live joyfully, and in doing so, discover how beautiful the Kingdom of God is and give thanks for the redemption offered to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Faithfully,

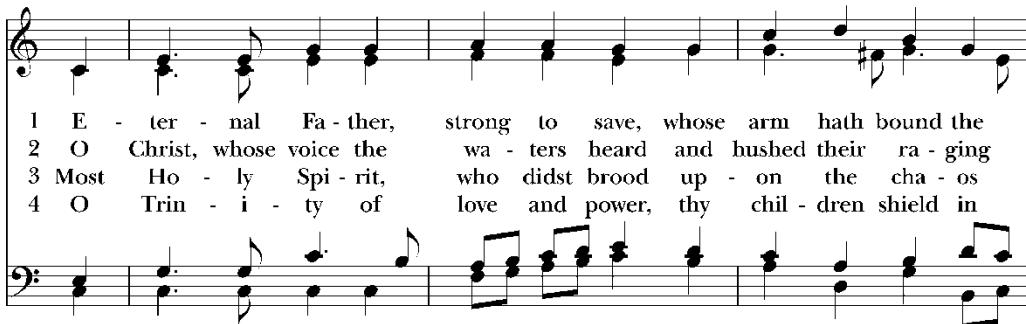
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Chr. Wood". A small cross symbol is positioned to the right of the "d".

The Rev. Christian M. Wood  
*Rector*

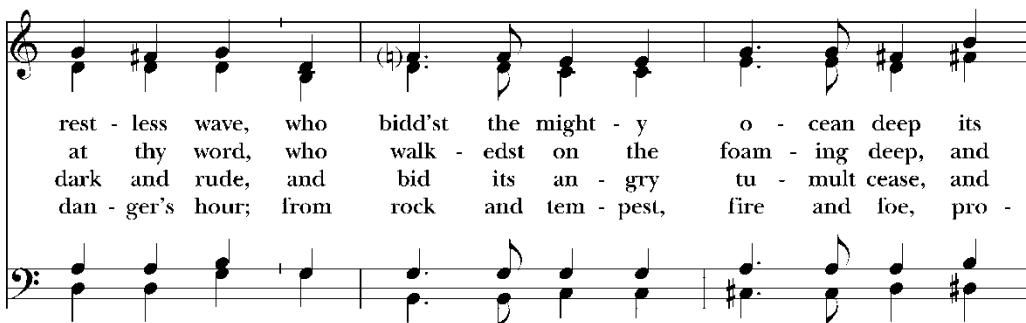
*The people stand as the ministers enter*

Processional Hymn 608

*Melita*



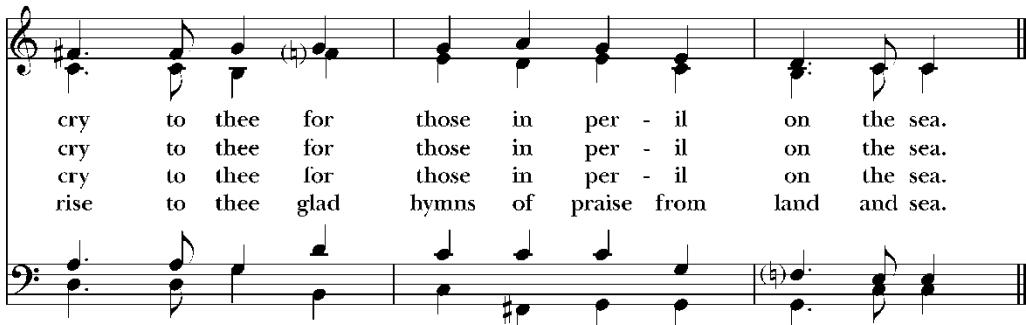
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the  
2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their ra - ging  
3 Most Ho - ly Spi - rit, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, thy chil - dren shield in



rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its  
at thy word, who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we  
calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace; O hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er-more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

## PROPER ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE 374

*Nun danket all und bringet Her*



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry "to be ex - alt - ed thus";  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and power di - vine;  
4 The whole cre - a - tion joins in one to bless the sa - cred Name



ten thou-sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply "for he was slain for us."  
may bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for ev - er thine.  
of him that sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## 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 16:9-15

*Lector* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedo'nia was standing beseeching him and saying, "Come over to Macedo'nia and help us." And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedo'nia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Setting sail therefore from Tro'as, we made a direct voyage to Sam'othrace, and the following day to Ne-ap'olis, and from there to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedo'nia, and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days; and on the sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyati'ra, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul. And when she was baptized, with her household, she besought us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL: PSALM 67 (COVERDALE TRANSLATION)

Sir Edward Bairstow

*Sung by the choir*

*God be merciful unto us, and bless us : and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:*

*2 That thy way may be known upon earth : thy saving health among all nations.*

*3 Let the people praise thee, O God : yea, let all the people praise thee.*

*4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad : for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.*

*5 Let the people praise thee, O God : let all the people praise thee.*

*6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase : and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.*

*7 God shall bless us : and all the ends of the world shall fear him.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end.  
Amen.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

*Lector A reading from the Revelation to John.*

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of

the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand*

**SEQUENCE HYMN 513**

*Bridegroom*

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the

chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the  
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -  
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and

wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - - ger  
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and  
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com - -

might: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - - rit, come.  
sign: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - - rit, come.  
pare: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - - rit, come.

## THE GOSPEL

John 5:1-9

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

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

There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Beth za'tha, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

Father Van Wormer

*The people sit*

## THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

*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 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*

We pray for \_\_\_\_\_, for those in the hospital \_\_\_\_\_,  
those in hospice \_\_\_\_\_, for the recent faithful departed,  
especially \_\_\_\_\_ [and for \_\_\_\_\_ in whose memory  
the altar flowers are given today].

*The Celebrant adds this concluding collect*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## CONFSSION 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.**

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Offertory Sentence

## Offertory Anthem *Holy Spirit, ever dwelling*

## Herbert Howells

## *Sung by the choir*

1 *Holy Spirit, ever dwelling  
In the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding  
O'er a world of gloom and night;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising  
Sons of earth to thrones on high;  
Living, life-imparting Spirit,  
Thee we praise and magnify.*

3 *Holy Spirit, ever working  
Through the Church's ministry;  
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,  
Setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding  
Age to age, and soul to soul:  
In a fellowship unending  
Thee we worship and extol.*

2 *Holy Spirit, ever living  
As the Church's very life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving  
Through her in a ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming  
In the Church the mind of Christ;  
Thee we praise with endless worship  
For thy fruit and gifts unpriced.*

## Doxology with Alleluias

*Laast uns erfreuen*

*All stand*

*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:

**Sanctus and Benedictus S-125**

Richard Proulx

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 remain standing as they are able*

*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 sung*

**Fraction Anthem S-155 Pascha Nostrum**

*Gerald Near*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. 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 receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing  
(indicated by crossing your arms over your chest).*

*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.**

*All stand*

**Communion Motet** *Holy is the true light*

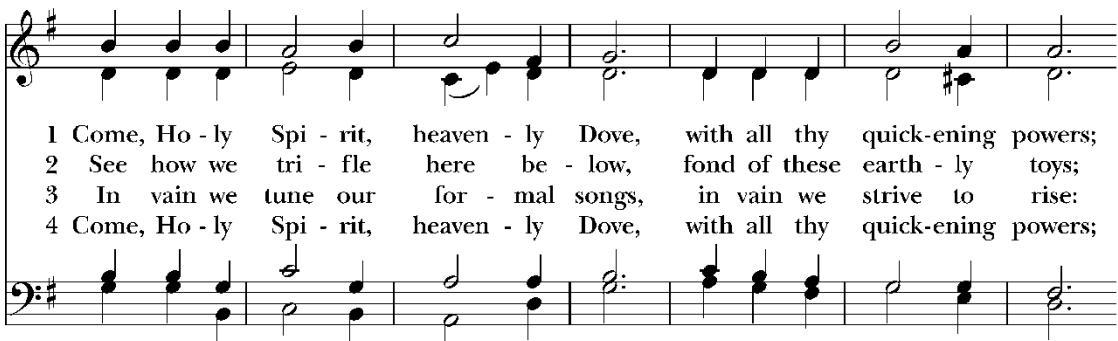
Sir William Harris

*Sung by the choir*

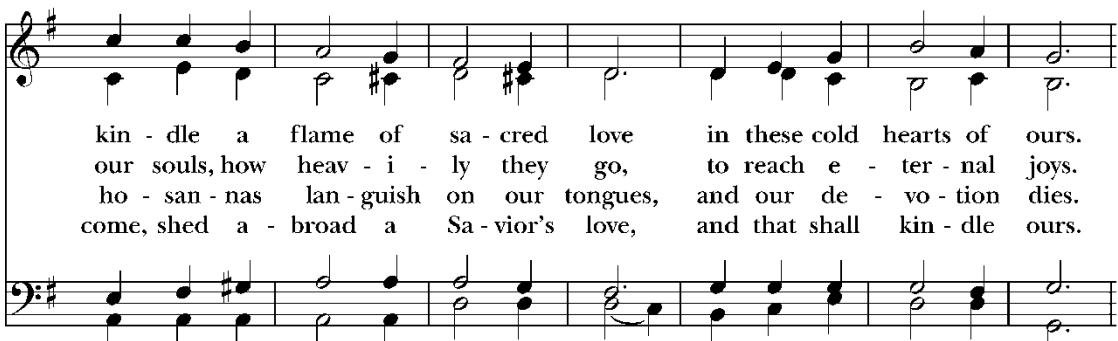
*Holy is the True Light,  
and passing wonderful,  
lending radiance to them that endured  
in the heat of the conflict.  
From Christ they inherit  
a home of unfading splendour,  
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.  
Alleluia!*

**Communion Hymn 510**

*St. Agnes*



1 Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, heaven - ly Dove, with all thy quick-en-ing powers;  
2 See how we tri - file here be - low, fond of these earth - ly toys;  
3 In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we strive to rise:  
4 Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, heaven - ly Dove, with all thy quick-en-ing powers;



kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.  
our souls, how heav - i - ly they go, to reach e - ter - nal joys.  
ho - san - nas lan - guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.  
come, shed a - broad a Sa - vior's love, and that shall kin - dle ours.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*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 BLESSING

*The Celebrant gives the Blessing.*

*People*      **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Deacon gives the Dismissal*

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

**Processional Hymn 537**

*Moscow*



1 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
2 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
3 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
4 Christ for the world we sing! The world to



Christ we bring with fervent prayer; the way - ward  
Christ we bring with one accord; with us the  
Christ we bring with joyful song; the new - born

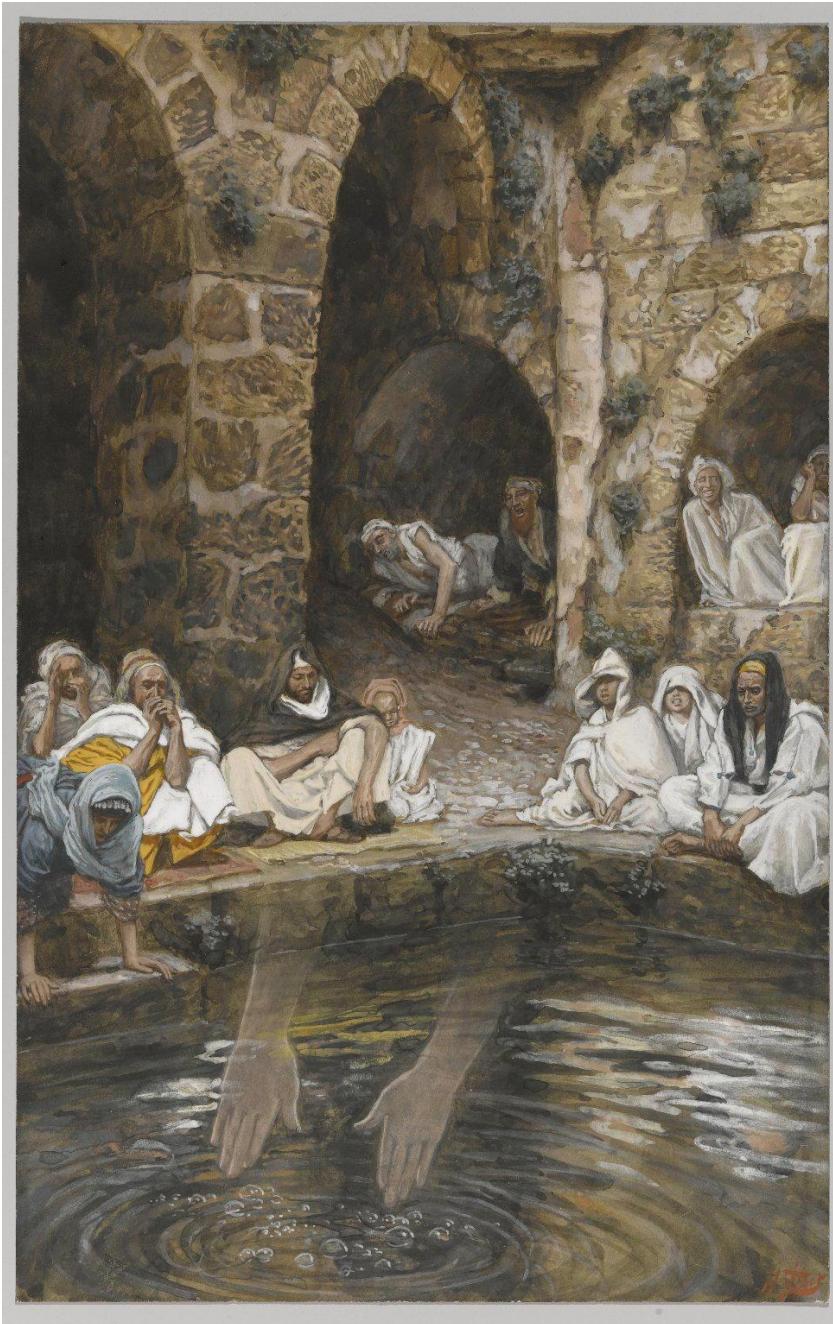


them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,  
and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,  
work to share, with us re - proach to dare,  
souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,



with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.  
in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.





James Tissot, *The Piscina Probatica (The Pool of Bethesda)* Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper, c. 1886-1894, the Brooklyn Museum.

Tissot's *The Piscina Probatica* presents an almost haunting, mystical vision of the Pool of Bethesda as described in John 5:1–9. Rather than focusing on the human drama of Jesus healing the infirm, Tissot captures the atmosphere of divine mystery that surrounded the pool itself. Ethereal arms descend from above, stirring and blessing the water, a visual reference to an ancient belief that angels would periodically stir up the waters, bringing healing to the first who would enter. Figures lie patiently hoping for their turn to find relief from suffering. Along the tiled colonnade, their body language shows their pain or resignation. With no central figure of Christ, the painting invites our contemplation of the divine presence that is both veiled and active—grace moving silently among the broken yet hopeful.



# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

## AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

*VI Bishop of Southwest Florida*

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ANDREW M. BROWN (2025)

*Junior Warden*

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR

*Treasurer*

AMY YOST

*Clerk of the Vestry*

NORMAN F.J. ALLEN III (2027)

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LISA J. LEAL (2026)

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### THE CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD

*XVII Rector*

THE REVEREND DALE W. VAN WORMER

*Associate Rector*

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

*Retired Priest in Residence*

SIMON J. MORLEY

*Organist and Director of Music*

LAURIE D. LAWTHON

*Parish Administrator*

JANICE A. DE PINTO

*Parish Secretary*

RODERICK MORRIS

*Sexton*

THE REVEREND

DONALD P. GOODHEART

*Retired Priest in Residence*

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ

*Deacon*

THE REVEREND TANIA M. WILKES

*Deacon*

HUGH A. R. JEBSON

*Head of St. John's School*

LEE M. LOWRY

*Director of Communications*

AYANA S. GRADY

*Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries*