



# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER



**Holy Eucharist Rite II - 6:00 pm**

April 4, 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,



The Rev. Christian M. Wood, *Rector*  
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

## THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*The congregation assembles in the courtyard. Fire is kindled.*

*Celebrant*

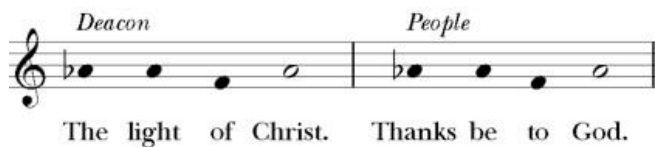
Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of the everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire.*

*The Deacon, bearing the Candle, then leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times, and singing*



*At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.*

*The congregation's candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time.*

*The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand after which the Deacon sings the Exsultet*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Deacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*The people sit*

**THE FIRST LESSON** *The Flood*

Genesis 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

The Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his

sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind – every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh – birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Hymn 389

Monkland

1 Let us, with a glad - some mind, praise the Lord, for he is kind:  
 2 Let us blaze his Name a - broad, for of gods he is the God:  
 3 He with all - com - mand - ing might filled the new-made world with light:  
 4 He the gold - en - tress - ed sun caused all day his course to run:  
 5 The horn-ed moon to shine by night, mid her span-gled sis - ters bright:

*Refrain*

for his mer - cies ay en-dure, ev - er faith-ful, ev - er sure.

6 All things living he doth feed,  
his full hand supplies their need:

*Refrain*

7 Let us, with a gladsome mind,  
praise the Lord, for he is kind:

*Refrain*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SECOND LESSON *Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea*

Exodus 14:10-15:1

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them;

and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

### Hymn 648

*Go Down, Moses*

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;  
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;  
 3 They jour-neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;  
 4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.  
 to lead the chil-dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.  
 and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.  
 and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

*Refrain*

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The people stand*

## PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES

*Celebrant* The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*The candidates are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and*

*Godparents* I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*Then, to older candidates who can answer for themselves, the Celebrant asks*

Do you desire to be baptized?

*Candidate* I do.

*When all have been presented, the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and*

*Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and*

*Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*The Celebrant asks the parents, godparents, and candidates who can speak for themselves*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the whole congregation saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*All stand*

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking  
of the bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent  
and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News  
of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor  
as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the  
dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

*The Celebrant says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*The altar party, candidates, and family now process to the baptismal font.*

*The Cantor leads the following petitions*

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes the petitions with this prayer*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

*The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying*

The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE BAPTISM

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant who then pours water upon the candidate, saying*  
N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead with Chrism, the sign of the cross and saying*

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

**Amen.**

*When this action has been completed, the Celebrant prays for the newly baptized saying:*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

## PROCESSION FROM THE FONT

*The Altar Party returns to the front of the church*

*The newly baptized are invited to stand in front of the congregation and the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*All* **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

*All stand*

*An organ fanfare is played during which the candles at the Altar are lighted from the Paschal Candle*

## AT THE EUCHARIST

*Celebrant*



*People*



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the 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.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit*

**THE EPISTLE**

Romans 6:3-11

*Lector* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN 180

*Unser Herrscher*

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and  
 \*3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -  
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
 ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming  
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,  
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the  
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.  
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

## The Great Alleluia

Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

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

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

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### THE SERMON

Father Andrew Lazo

*The people sit*

### THE PEACE

*All stand*

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

*People* **And also with you.**

*The people sit*

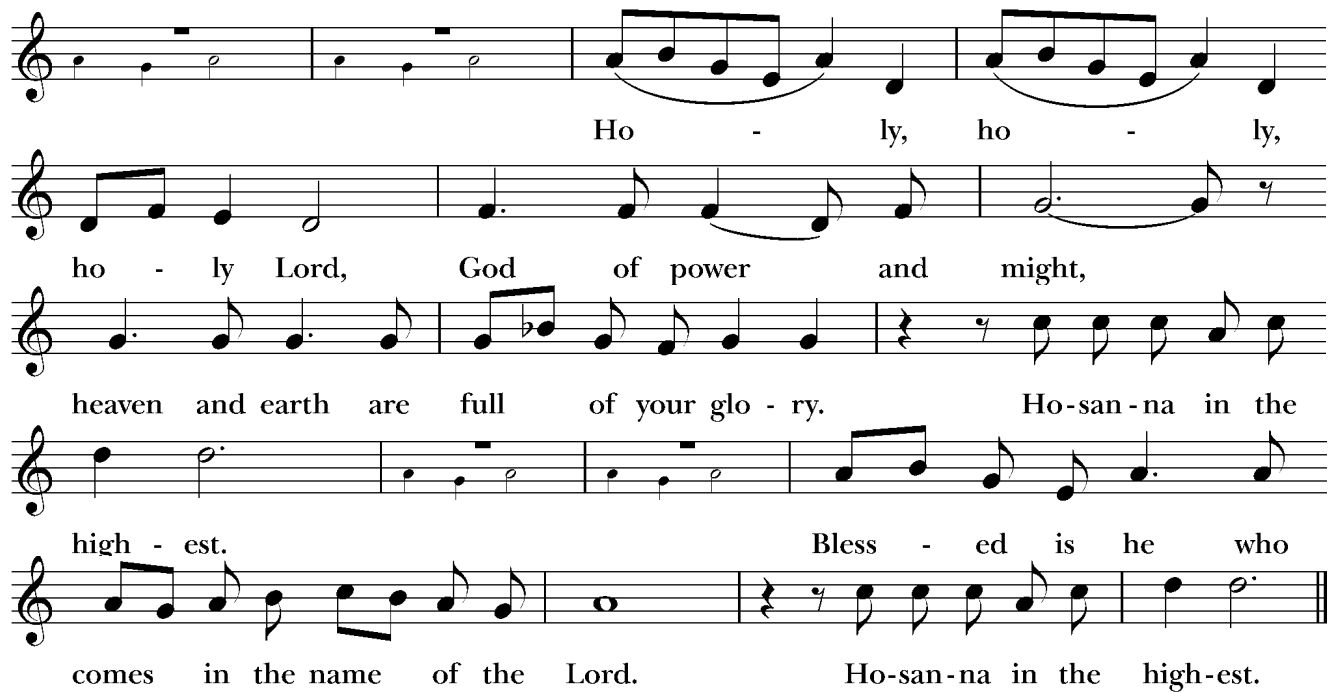
### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Offertory Sentence



# Sanctus and Benedictus S-128

William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

*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 sung*

**Fraction Anthem S-155** Gerald Near



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*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). Please follow the direction of the ushers, and inform them if you need communion brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. If you have not been baptized, and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about the possibility of being baptized, or any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.*

*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.*

**Please fill in the kneelers at the altar during Communion from the center aisle out, towards the side aisles.**

*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.]

**Communion Motet** *This joyful Eastertide*

Arr: Charles Wood

*This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to life this morrow.*

*Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
Since Jesus crossed the river:  
Lord of all life, from ill  
my passing life deliver.*

**Refrain:**  
*Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain;  
but now is Christ arisen.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber,  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number.*

Communion Hymn 193

*Puer nobis*



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the  
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his  
 3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do  
 4 O Lord of all, with us a - bide in  
 5 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing  
 2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn  
 3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee  
 4 this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon  
 5 thee, who, dead, a - gain dost live; to God the Fa - ther



1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.  
 2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.  
 3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.  
 4 death can wield thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield.  
 5 e - qual praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The people kneel*

*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 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.**

*The people stand*

Processional Hymn 208

Victory

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff. A 'Ped.' (pedal) marking is located below the first few notes of the bass line.

## VOLUNTARY

# CANDIDATES FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Jason Gaines  
Alexia Kirshfield  
Bryson LeBel  
Jackson LeBel  
Madison LeBel  
Walker Smith

Pierson LeBel  
Adeline Rose Martin  
  
Andi Smith  
  
John Sussex Mitchell Jr.

# EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

2026

## *EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD*

by Bette & Bob Crowder in memory of Dorothy and Henry Taylor, Edna and Bob Reynolds, Daryn & Gaither Crowder.

by the Devitt Family in thanksgiving for the Ministry of Mother Caroline Devitt.

by Pamela Shives in memory of Maurine Von Stroh, Gerald Von Stroh; Burgess Von Stroh & Jamie Holley and in thanksgiving for my children; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

by Drew and Betsy Graham in memory of Paul and Adaire Graham.

by Susan Boyd in memory of Marion & William Boyd and Arthur Thompson

by Roddy & Ralph Belfatti in memory of Mary Scotti, Ralph Belfatti Sr.; Katie & Zeki Knight; Dan & Jean Clarke and in thanksgiving for Addison & Hailey Belfatti; Fred & Elaine Clarke.

by Trish and John McKay in memory of Joan and Howell McKay, Joseph and Irene Marek, and Joe Marek.

by Chris and Trang Smith in memory of John & Adele Smith and Tai Tu.

by Shirley Susich in thanksgiving for St. John's Flower Guild members.

by Margaret Stubbs in memory of Sidney J. Stubbs & Blanche Stubbs.

by Roger & Elizabeth Kurz in memory of Amelia Rose Kurz and in thanksgiving for Emma Rose Kurz.

by Patricia Ferguson in memory of Macy & Lamar Bailey and Libby.

by Mary and Ron Hulse in thanksgiving for our family.

by Yvonne Santiago in memory of Esther Semidei and in thanksgiving for Esther Santiago, the Hicks children and Miriam Faircloth.

by John Reffue and Jacqueline Saums in memory of Mary-Teresa Reffue, Lyle and Ruth Reffue and Louis and Julia Tropia and in thanksgiving for Thomas and Jessie Reffue and Caitlin and Tyler Barkley.

by the Johnson family in memory of Susan Wolf Johnson.

by the Johnson family in memory of Dr. John J. Kovaric.

by Janis Elliott in memory of the Rev. Robert J. Elliot; Frank and Pearl Elliott; Lester and Glenrose Ford, John and Ethyl Boucher; Huldah Ford and in thanksgiving for caring thoughtful friends in my life.

by Lisa Parish in thanksgiving for Pam Shives.

by Lois Smith in thanksgiving for my sons Kyle & Kevin and their wonderful families.

by Miriam Faircloth in thanksgiving for John, Kathy, JT, Kyla, Jackie, Wade, Shirley, Brooke, Brandan, Katie, Sky, Liz, Larry, Lorenzo and Bella.

by Perry, Helen & Bailey in memory of Norm Soash.

by Lockwood Gray in thanksgiving for my wonderful family, Shannon, Sophia, and Olivia Gray.

by Pam Scruggs in memory of Charles and in thanksgiving for the blessing of Shailee.

by the Lucas family in memory of the Rev. Norman & Dolores Lucas & Lou Rocha.

by Denise & Thomas Cassedy in memory of Marshall and Donna Cassedy and Denis and Kathleen Duggan.

by Leland Baldwin in memory of Fletcher N. Baldwin Jr. and in thanksgiving for Nancy T. Baldwin, Walker Baldwin Barnes, Fletcher Baldwin Barnes & R. Baldwin Barnes.

by Heddy and Andy Brown in memory of Ann and David Murphey & Edward Melton Brown and in thanksgiving for Erada Brown.

by Harry and Gwen in memory of Robert Hedges.

by Janis Chapman in memory of Tim Guzzle & Betsy Maslowe.

by Mary Jane Stagi in memory of Joseph Stagi, Stephany Austell & Brian Austell.

by Alvin and Lee Casey in memory of Richard Lee Casey Jr., Alvin Casey, Charles Martin and Wilma Martin.

by Suzanne & Doug Arthur in memory of Lucy and Richard Emery and in thanksgiving for Beth and Jim Arthur; Caroline and Kate Arthur.

by Lelia Logan Clewis in memory of Charlotte Jordan and Claude D. Logan, Jr.

by Lynn Fluharty in memory of Stephen Parker Fluharty.

by the Bedore family in thanksgiving for the ministry of Chef Dave and the Kitchen Krewe.

by the Bedore family in thanksgiving for Ayana Grady and all Sunday School and EYC volunteers.

by James and Julie Marti in memory of Frank and Margie Norton and James D. Martin and in thanksgiving for Ryan, Walker and Turner.

by Jim and Lindsey Robbins in memory of John and MaryEllen Germany and Jimmie and MaryBaker Robbins and in thanksgiving for Jimmy, Liz, John, Maddie, and George.

by the Peterson family in memory of The Rev. John R. Peterson.

by Lee and Mary Beth Peterson in memory of Ramona Etheredge and Mary Alla Fuentes.

by Bob and Sons in thanksgiving for Leland Baldwin, for all her hard work and effort to become a public servant.

by David & Barbara Pitts in memory of Shirley Osborn and Diane Williamson.

by the Clarke Hobby family in memory of Clyde Hobby and Lynda Vawter.





# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

AND Episcopal Parish Day School

906 SOUTH ORLEANS AVENUE · TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606-2941

TEL. 813.259.1570 · EMAIL: PARISH@STJOHNSTAMPA.ORG

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

JEFFREY M. HUNT (2026)

*Senior Warden*

NORMAN F.J. ALLEN III (2027)

*Junior Warden*

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR

*Treasurer*

ELIZABETH S. GRAHAM

*Assistant Treasurer*

AMY YOST

*Clerk of the Vestry*

ROBERT O. ALTER (2026)

CLAYTON BRICKLEMYER (2028)

CARY R. BROWN (2026)

HUGH CRUSE (2028)

VERA FARMEN (2028)

LYNN L. FLUHARTY (2027)

ANDREW B. GALAVIS, SR. (2027)

ELIZABETH S. KURZ (2028)

LISA J. LEAL (2026)

CHRISTINA C. MCADAMS (2027)

## 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*