

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

204 Monument Road
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512
(508) 255-0433
www.holyspiritlorleans.org

The Word of God

The Prelude

Sonata in F major

W.A.Mozar

Joan Kirchner, flute; Anne Perrault, piano

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn *O God Beyond All Praising*

Michael A. Perry/*Thaxted* (Holst)



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2. The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz-ing that songs can-not re - pay;
Its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
That we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



For we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
But hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown,
And wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



At bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end.
Though small in mor - tal stat - ure to heav - en's gar - den grown.
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still,



We lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word;
For Christ, the man from heav - en, from death has set us free,
To mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



We hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
And we through him are giv - en the fin - al vic - to - ry!
And make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect for Purity

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.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

The Lessons

A reading from the Book of Acts (17:22-31)

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the 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, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed 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 own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

Psalm 66:7-18



- 7 Bless our God, you /peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be / heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in /life, *
and will not allow our feet to /slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have /proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is /tried.
- 10 You brought us into the /snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our /backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and /water; *
but you brought us out into a place of re/freshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my /vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in /trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of /rams; *
I will give you oxen and /goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear /God, *
and I will tell you what he has /done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my /mouth, *
and his praise was on my /tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my /heart, *
the Lord would not have /heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has /heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my /prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my /prayer, *
nor withheld his /love from me.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter (3:13-22)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good 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 made subject to him.

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

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn 455 O God of love, how strong and true

Dunedin

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and your truth.
May we walk in newness of life.

Good shepherd, guide us in right pathways for your name's sake.
That your goodness and mercy will be made known through us all the days of our lives.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our sister parishes across eastern Massachusetts, including today Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton; St. Andrew's Church, Ayer; Trinity Church, Concord; St. Andrew's Church, Framingham; and the Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society. **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

We pray for the world: remembering especially those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, including Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Nigeria, Venezuela, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and our own nation. We pray for those in every land who suffer for the sake of conscience. We remember those suffering from unemployment, fears, dislocation or deportation. Good shepherd, lead us and all people into ways of justice, safety and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

We give you thanks for the gift of this fragile earth. For soil and sunlight and wind and water. For all that grows and lives. We repent of our misuse of your miracle. Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it and strengthen in us the capacity to preserve and protect.
Teach us to care creatively for your resources.

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, Sally Drew, Joanne Gamble, Joan Kirkby, Sandra Parry, Andrew Payne, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Matthew, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and Rachael. We remember all we name before you now. (Pause). God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. **May they know the power of your healing love.**

We remember those who have died, and those we name before you now. (Pause). We remember also with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. **Into your hands we commend them.**

We pray finally for ourselves and our ministries. (Pause). Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and your truth. **May we walk in newness of life.**

We remember and give thanks on this Mother's Day for those who gave each of us the gift of life. We give thanks for all whose mothering actions make your tender love known in our own lives and throughout the world. We remember also this day those who have lost their mothers, those who have grown without loving maternal care, and those whose hopes of being mothers have not been fulfilled. **Strengthen in each of us the capacity to nurture and to care.**

The 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 forever. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

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

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Laudate Dominum (sung in Latin)
Joan Kirchner, soprano; Anne Perrault, piano

W.A.Mozart

Praise the Lord, all nations, praise him, all people,
for he has bestowed his mercy upon us
and the truth of the Lord endures forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever for all generations.

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

Hymn 210 Now let the heavens be joyful

Ellacombe

Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin, the
round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in; Let
all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend, for
Christ the Lord is ris - sen, our joy that hath no end.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Christ; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 S-127 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hampton

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Christ. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover (S-155)

Near

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

The gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

*All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available;
please make your needs known to the person serving you.*

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 704 O thou who camest from above

Hereford

Hymn LEVAS 184 Blessed assurance

Phoebe P. Knapp

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by grace you accept us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ, and feed us with spiritual food in this sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace to do your work of reconciliation as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit may all creation sing hymns of thanks and praise. Amen.

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing

May the God who raises Jesus to new life, raise us up to good works and new faith. **Amen.**

May the God who raises us up, send us out to be holy people in the world. **Amen.**

May the God who sends us out, gather us again at a table in that kingdom which is both now and forever. **Amen.**

And, may the God of all grace, who creates, redeems and sanctifies all things, bless, preserve and keep you both now and forever. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 191 Alleluia, alleluia!

Lux eoi

The Dismissal

Deacon



Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Postlude

The Strife is O'er

arr. Wilbur Held

Celebrant and Preacher

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Minister of Music

Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers

Meg Nemitz, Cynthia Murray

Readers

Sue Sasso, Brian Ridgeway, Earle Bailey

Ushers

Phil Suraci, Walter Morgan

Altar Guild

Barbara Wahlquist

Altar Flower Guild

Cynthia Murray

Audio/Video

Nancy Boccia

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