

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2026

Prelude

Gathering and Welcome

Entrance Hymn

Morning Has Broken

Hymn 8

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant Dear friends in the risen Christ, we are made one with Jesus through the waters of baptism and the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. God's spirit hovered over the waters of creation and called all life into being. May that same spirit rest upon us to remind us that we are baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One.

Celebrant O God, the Creator of all things, by water and the Holy Spirit you have given the universe its beauty and fashioned us in your own image.

People **Bless and purify your creation.**

Celebrant O Christ the Messiah, from your pierced side you gave us your sacraments as fountains of salvation.

People **Bless and purify your Church.**

Celebrant O Holy Spirit, giver of life, from the baptismal font of the church you have formed us into a new creation in the waters of rebirth.

People **Bless and purify your people.**

Celebrant May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People **Amen! Alleluia!**

SONG OF PRAISE

Celebrant Great and wonderful are your deeds
People **O Lord God the almighty: just and true are your ways O Sovereign of the nations. Who shall not revere and praise your name O Lord? For you alone are holy. All nations shall come and worship in your presence: for your just dealings have been revealed. To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb: be blessing and honor, glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.**

GLORIA

S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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 WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:22-31

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Acts

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.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 66:7-18

(Read responsively by full verse)

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

**Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**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.**

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.

**Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.

**If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;**

But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.**

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Reader: A Reading from the 1st letter of Peter

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove Hymn 512

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Deacon God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Alleluia Verse

Gospel: 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Alleluia Verse

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jeff Goldone

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - An Easter Creed

Deacon We proclaim together in faith;

All **We believe in God Almighty,
maker of the earth and sky;
all we see and all that's hidden
is his work unceasingly:**

**We believe in Christ the Savior,
Son of God and Son of Man;
Born of Mary,
preaching, healing, crucified, yet risen again:
God our Father's loving kindness,
he ascended to the Father,
with us till the day we die--
there in glory long to reign--
evermore and evermore,
evermore and evermore.**

**We believe in God the Spirit,
present in our lives today;
speaking through the prophets' writings,
guiding travelers on their way:
to our hearts she brings forgiveness,
and the hope of endless joy--
evermore and evermore. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon: We offer our prayers and thanksgivings to God, who in the midst of our trials and adversities give us the faith to endure, responding,
Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader: In thanksgiving for the holy commandments of the Lord's truth, and Jesus' eternal gift of love, that we may follow them as pathways to sanctification; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

In thanksgiving for those who volunteer their time for the ministry of Christ in this church, in our diocese, and throughout the world. Bless Sean our presiding bishop, Deon our bishop, Jeff our interim priest, and Diana our deacon as they live their lives committed to Christ and the service of all; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

That we may be a community of joyous believers, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving each other's sins, responding to the needs of all, so that the world may see and know that all things are being made new through the Risen One; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

That children may receive full measure of food, education, parental love, and a religious upbringing; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

In thanksgiving for this Eucharistic Meal, where Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us and invites us to share in heaven's feast; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

That we may give honor to those considered least in our society, knowing that Jesus reveals the divine will through their lives and in the course of their abiding faithfulness; let us pray.
Hear us, O risen Christ.

Lord, we pray for Your protection over all who gather in large crowds—whether for worship, celebration, or any public event. Gun violence has cast a shadow of fear over these gatherings, but we know that with You, we are safe. We ask that You keep us safe from harm, surround us with Your angels, and help us to enjoy each moment without fear. May Your presence bring peace to every gathering, and may we be safe under Your watchful eye; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

That those who are in need of healing will know the presence of caring and loving families, friends, and medical professionals. We pray especially for David, Canon Desiree, Charles, Anita, Steve, Kay, Shep, Ed, Jack, Toni, and those who remain in the silence of our hearts; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

In thanksgiving for the faith of Abraham and Sarah, and all the faithful departed whose every breath was lived in response to God's promises; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Our sanctuary candle burns in silent adoration with our Lord in the reserved Eucharist in honor and in memory of my mom, and your mom, and all moms; those who are still with us; those who have been called to heaven; those who tried their best but didn't quite make it; those others who were like moms to us; those who want to be mothers but cannot, those who grieve the loss of a child; and those dads who had to be our mom too, may God bless each and every one.

Please join me in praying our discernment prayer together:

All:

Almighty God, you know the needs of our faith community. As we travel this journey of seeking a new rector, we humbly ask for your guidance and wisdom. May your Holy Spirit open our hearts and enlighten our minds to discern your will for us.

Bless the members of our discernment team; Angela, Karen, Leanne, Mary, and Randy. Grant them clarity, patience, and the ability to work together in unity and love. May they be open to your leading and faithful in seeking the right person to lead St. Paul's.

We pray for the candidates who may be called to serve among us. May they be blessed with grace, strength, and a clear sense of their calling. May they be able to discern whether St. Paul's is the right place for them to serve.

We pray for our parish community. May we be open to the possibility of a new shepherd and embrace them with love and support. May we be strengthened in our faith and renewed in our mission to proclaim your Gospel.

Thank you, God, for your unwavering love and care. We trust in your plan for us and ask for your continued guidance as we seek a new shepherd to lead us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, source of all good gifts, we are grateful for our many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and desire to be faithful stewards of your bounty. Help us to step forward in faith and guide our hearts into generous giving so that this congregation may continued to be a place of peace, safety, renewal, and outreach to the glory of your name. **Amen**

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Ministers and People greet one another with the Peace of God.

Announcements

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Offertory Hymn

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Hymn 494

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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:

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.

Celebrant 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 Son. 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."

Deacon Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

Celebrant 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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray.

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

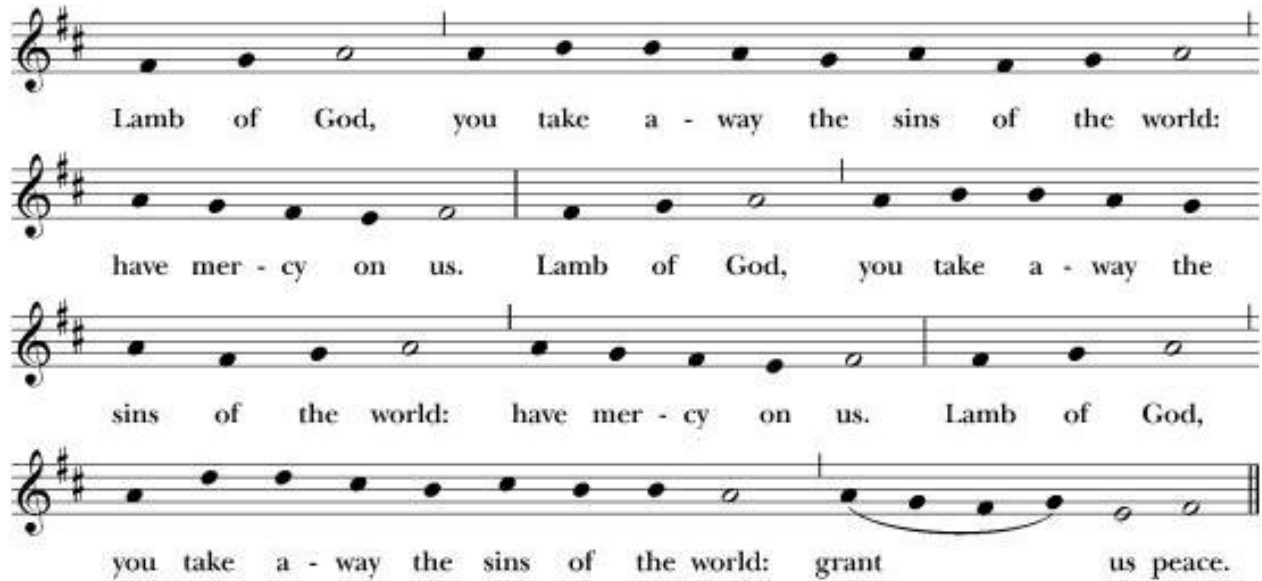
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

AGNUS DEI

S161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. So come to this table you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. You who are full of faith and full of doubt. Come, it is Christ himself who invites you to meet him here.

Communion Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Hymn 405

THE GREAT SILENCE

Celebrant Jesus said to his disciples, "Come away to a quiet place and rest for a while." Therefore, let us now rest in Christ's presence in the silence.

A period of silence is kept.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

Celebrant O God, make us instruments of your peace.
People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Alleluia! Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and everlasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Hymn 376

Dismissal

Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Prayers of Gratitude on Mother's Day

For the everyday heroes.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of mothers. We thank you for the hands that held us when we were small, the hearts that listened when we were troubled, and the spirits that encouraged us to fly. Bless them today with a deep sense of peace and the knowledge that their love has made a lasting difference in the world. **Amen.**

For the mothers currently in the 'thick of it.

Loving God, we lift up the mothers who are weary and overworked. Grant them the strength to meet the demands of each day and the wisdom to guide their children with grace. In moments of chaos, give them calm; in moments of doubt, give them confidence. Let them see the beauty in the small moments and feel deeply appreciated for all they do. **Amen.**

For mothers no longer with us.

Loving God, we hold close those for whom this day is difficult. For those who have lost their mothers, we ask for comfort in cherished memories. For those who long to be mothers, we ask for hope and peace. May they feel surrounded by a love that transcends physical presence, and may their hearts find rest today. **Amen.**

For grandmothers, aunts, mentors, and 'bonus' moms.

Loving God, today, we honor every woman who has nurtured a life, mentored a soul, or provided a safe harbor for a child. Thank you for the diversity of motherhood and the many ways love is expressed. May these women be blessed with joy, health, and the realization that their influence ripples through generations. **Amen.**

“A mother’s arms are made of tenderness, and children sleep soundly in them.” — *Victor Hugo*