



Sunday May 24, 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter : The Sunday
after Ascension

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
St. John's Episcopal Church, Bangor, Maine

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Our Worship today is hosted and led by our Education for Ministry (EfM) group as we mark the end of another Adult Formation program year, and to give thanks for the graduation of Scott Burgess and Phil Ulrich from EfM. We also give thanks for Patricia Sprague's ministry, for introducing EfM to St. John's and for serving as mentor for twelve years before now stepping down. And on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember especially those who have given their lives in service to our country.

Opening sentences

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Then follows the Pascha Nostrum, said in unison.

The Antiphon may first be sung or said with it.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 **Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; * as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 **Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; * Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him!**
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 **God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; * but the rebels shall live in dry places.**
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 **The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, * at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 **Your people found their home in it; * in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 **He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; * he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
- 36 **How wonderful is God in his holy places! * the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!**

At the end of the Psalms is said in unison

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson (Acts 1:6-14)

A Reading from Acts of the Apostles:

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

The First Canticle

Canticle 8 The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino*

Recited together in unison

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea;*
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
 they sank into the depths like a stone.
 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
 your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
 Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
 who is like you, glorious in holiness,
 awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
 You stretched forth your right hand; *
 the earth swallowed them up.
 With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
 with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.
 You will bring them in and plant them *
 on the mount of your possession,
 The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
 the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
 The Lord shall reign *
 for ever and for ever.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Second Lesson (1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11)

A reading from the first letter of Peter:

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

The Hymn Canticle

Hymn 388, v. 1, O Worship the King

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
 2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!
 2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
 3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
 4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
 5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!

1 pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 2 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 3 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 4 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 5 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

The Third Lesson (John 17:1-11)

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

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

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 at the right hand of the Father.**

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

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. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant 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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Then follows this set of Suffrages

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collects

The Collect for the 7th Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Office Hymn

Hymn 383, v. 1 Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru-ler of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair-er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair-er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The People respond, "Lord, have mercy."

The General Thanksgiving, said in unison

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Anthem at the Collection

You may give online at <https://stjohnsbangor.org/online-giving/> or by texting "StJohnsBangor Donation \$50" to 73256 to donate using your text messaging. (Any amount donation can be made, \$50 is just the example.) Standard text message rates do apply. Thank you for your continued support.

Scripture reflection – The Rev. Marguerite A. H. Steadman, Rector

Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduation

Today we celebrate the graduation of Phil Ulrich and Scott Burgess, who have completed EfM's four year program, studying Scripture, church history, ethics, theology, and interfaith encounter. Including Scott and Phil, 16 people have now graduated from EfM here at St John's. I'm sure that all of them would agree that EfM has been a safe and supportive community in which to explore how our faith can truly be the foundation for our daily lives, and in which to purposefully seek where God is calling

every one of us to ministry. Please join with Phil and Scott and the entire EfM community – past, present, and future – as we celebrate today their commitment to serve God and all His creation.

Loving God of us all, we ask your blessing on Scott and Phil, and on all who seek a deeper relationship with you. May we all in our worship, study, and ministry continue to serve you daily, in all that we do and say. **Amen.**

Final Prayer and Blessing

Let us Pray *in unison*

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name. So now, gather and send us; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.

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.**

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us Bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Postlude

Parish Prayer list

For the Church - Our Anglican Communion and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury,
Our Episcopal Church and Michael our Presiding Bishop;

Our Diocese of Maine and Thomas our Bishop, In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - The congregations of St. Margaret's, Belfast; St. Andrew's, Newcastle. For Memorial Day as we remember all who have died in the service of their country.

Our Parish of St. John's Bangor and Rita and Ann our clergy and all our people:

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed – Deborah J., The Bemis Family, Finn, Julie, Patricia, Steadman Family, Tim P., Sarah, Patty D., Dick D., Beth P., Ella D, DeeJ P. Elsa G., Alice F., Eleanor P., Ralph R., Miranda S., Steve B., Kristin W., Siobhan, and Elizabeth. *Continued prayers for – Veronica, Kathleen D., Sam H., Susanna P., David H., Mary Ann T, Ciarra, Anne L, David B., Michael, +Steven Lane and Family, The Liberty Family, Donna D, David O, and Shirley G.*

For our Homebound Members – Evelyn L., Joline F., Kathleen D., Mary, Charles, Robert B., Christa F., Lois N., Lilly P., Earlene B., Nancy W., Cathy K., Betty C. and Eileen H.

For Everyone affected by the COVID19 virus - all who are sick or dying, especially those at Hope House in Bangor, all who mourn, all who are isolated, anxious, or scared; for those without shelter or food and for all those sacrificing and volunteering to provide safe beds and nutritious meals; for all who are working in essential services, especially our doctors and nurses and all in our health care facilities, for all working in our grocery stores and supply chains and those who clean and sterilize everywhere; for all who willingly sacrifice their own needs and desires for sake of others' health and well being.

For the World, for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in war-torn places, especially those in those in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering from the locust plague in Africa and from famine or food scarcity anywhere. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced, especially for children.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills, Governor; and Clare Davitt, Mayor - that they govern with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Dillan L., Joshua M., Aaron B., Timothy W.

For the Departed - Joel Johnson, Eunice Bemis, Barbara Danser; All who have died from the Corona Virus around the world

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week - Scott B., Elsie P., and Mo. Rita; and for those graduating from EfM - Phil Ulrich and Scott Burgess; and for the 11 years of ministry as EfM mentor of Pat Sprague as she concludes her service.

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact one of the clergy. Please use this list for your own personal prayers too