



St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

The Reverend Andrew Merrow, Guest Celebrant and Preacher

Typically, Episcopalians stand to sing and for the proclamation of the Gospel, kneel for confession and prayer, and sit while listening to reading or preaching. Your presence is more precious than your posture: please stand, sit, or kneel as you are able and prefer.

Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. An "S-" preceding the number denotes service music, which is found at the front of the hymnal.

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

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## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**Processional Hymn #436**

**Lift Up Your Heads**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **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.**

## **Gloria S - 280**

## **The Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

### **First Lesson**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. *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.”

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

**Psalm 66:7-18** *Jubilate Deo*

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 Epistle**

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #508      Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

## **The Holy Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. *14:15-21*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Homily**

### **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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People** Form III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The Prayer List will be shared, and other concerns may be named either silently or aloud.*

*Celebrant*

O God, we thank you for the power of divine love and for the presence of your love in one another. Guide us all finally into that greatest love who is Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

### **Announcements**

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye Heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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

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 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 - 130**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

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.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You also may come forward and receive a blessing. Intinction and drinking from the common cup are both offered; please indicate your preference to the minister at the rail.*

**Communion Music: Hymn 304            I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord**

### **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out**

**to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

**Recessional: Hymn 529**

**In Christ There Is No East or West**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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Serving Today

The Rev. Andrew Merrow, *Presider and Preacher*
Eileen Tallent, *Usher* • Faye Pritchard, *Altar Guild*
Lynn Robinson, *Reader* • Lisa Pope, *Prayers of the People*
Barbara Olivere, *Lay Eucharistic Minister*
Sandy Winger, *Teller* • Lisa Pope, *Fellowship*
Pete Olivere and Sandy Winger, *Sound and Live-stream Coordinators*
The Rev. Mary E. Cushing, *Deacon*

Announcements

Welcome to the Rev. Andrew Merrow, our supply priest for today, and to all our visitors and newcomers. **Please join us for coffee hour** downstairs after the service.

Rev. Julie is on medical leave. Please hold her in your prayers. She expects to return on May 24th.

Planning will begin when Rev. Julie is back for the various aspects of celebrating and setting down ministry at the parish. Rev. Julie will be available during May 26-28 for an initial meeting with anyone who wishes to help plan. Please let Rev. Mary know if you'd like to take part and, if so, the times you are available. Please also let Mary know what questions or topics you'd like to discuss so the clergy can prepare.

The Book Club will meet Tues., June 2nd at 7:30 pm to discuss *The Language of Bees* by Laurie King.

St. John's Little Free Food Pantry is much used and serving a real need. Many thanks to all who contribute. Please prioritize canned protein (tuna or chicken), cereal (both cold and oatmeal), ready-to-eat meals (such as Beef-a-roni), ready-to-eat soup, pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, shelf-stable milk, water, dry lentils, dry black beans, plain rice, peanut butter, and crackers (but no glass containers, please). Monetary contributions are also welcome. A check can be made out to St. John's, with LFFP in the memo line, or via the link on the parish website.

For pastoral care, please call or text the Rev. Julie at juliediane Bryant@gmail.com, or 703-336-2255, or Rev. Mary at deaconmaryc@gmail.com, or 703-772-7457.

Live-Stream Worship Zoom access link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVFfSWdNlKoZDUT09>

and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. Password: 2020. Or, zoom.com/join Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.