

St John's Episcopal Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10am

Come hydrate your soul at St John's:

A community of connections across generations.

Connect to God through worship, service,
real life and tradition.

14 Lagunitas Road
PO Box 217
Ross, California 94957

(415) 456-1102
info@stjohnsross.org
www.stjohnsross.org

As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are grateful for your presence!

During the service, please text your prayer request, birthday, anniversary or occasion of thanksgiving to 415.275.0115.

Give

Offerings may be given:

- in the plate
- Online at www.stjohnsross.org/give
- Venmo [@stjohnsross.org](https://venmo.com/stjohnsross.org)



Altar Flowers Given By

Keith and Connie Granger

in memory of her parents Jack and Sophie Caldwell

To remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers, please contact Leslie Limpert, 415.419.4529 or leslielimpert@yahoo.com.

cover image

Raising of Lazarus (Plate XIX)

Jean Charlot (1898-1979)

Lithograph. 13.5 cm. diameter

From Picture Book (John Becker, New York: 1933)

Prelude

Welcome

A few moments of silence follow the welcome announcement.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn

Thou art the way, to thee alone

Hurd

Sung by all, standing.



1. Thou art the Way, to thee a - lone from sin and
2. Thou art the Truth, thy word a - lone true wis - dom
3. Thou art the Life, the rend - ing tomb pro - claims thy
4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that



death we — flee; and all who would the Fa - ther
can im - part; thou on - ly canst in - form the
con - quering arm; and those who put their trust in
way to — know, that truth to keep, that life to



seek, must seek him, Lord, by — thee.
mind and pu - ri - fy the — heart.
thee nor death nor hell shall — harm.
win, whose joys e - ter - nal — flow.

Words by George Washington Doane (1799-1859), alt.

Music by John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)

Easter Acclamation

Presider Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Presider and People

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.

Song of Praise

Paschal Troparion

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)

The Congregation is invited to stamp their feet when singing the refrain.

Christ is ris - en from the dead, tramp - ling (*stomp*) down death by death.

5

Christ is ris - en from the dead, tramp - ling (*stomp*) down death by death, and on

9

those in the tomb be - stow - ing life, tramp - ling (*stomp*) down death by death, and on

13

those in the tomb be - stow - ing life, tramp - ling (*stomp*) down death by death.

17

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Collect of the Day*Presider* God be with you.*People* And also with you.*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading**Acts of the Apostles 17:1-4, 10-12***Please be seated.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia. They came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom Paul went and on three sabbaths presented to them from the scriptures, explaining and demonstrating it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead: "This is the Messiah, Jesus who I proclaim to you all." Now, some of [those Jews] were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the prominent women.

Then, the sisters and brothers immediately that night sent Paul and Silas away to Beroea; when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. These [persons] were more high-born and open minded than in Thessalonica; they received the word with great eagerness. Daily they examined the scriptures to see if these things were so. Thus many of them therefore believed, including highly respected Greek women and not just a few [Jewish] men.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

Plainsong

Congregation repeats the refrain after the cantor the first time.



- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory. — *Refrain*
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name. — *Refrain*
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches. — *Refrain*
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast. — *Refrain*

Gospel Acclamation

Shepherd's Alleluia

John Karl Hirten

All repeat refrain after the choir each time.

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

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

©1995 by John Karl Hirten. All rights reserved.

Choir Verse: You are God, we praise and acclaim you. You, O God, are eternal.
All creation worships you. — *REFRAIN*

Holy Gospel**John 11:17-27***Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus arrived [in Bethany], he found that for four days Lazarus had already been in the tomb. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. So, many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she met him, however Mary remained at the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Rabbi, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Yet even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even though they die, they will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Rabbi, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who comes into the world.”

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

The Rev. Skip Fotch

*Please be seated.**A moment of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

Creed

1 I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
2 I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
3 I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with -
4
be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er
fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True life
in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for -
7
of the sky and sea. I be - lieve in God's son, Je - sus, now for
there had tru - ly died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the
11
us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God's
break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -
14
Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
right - hand. He will come to judge and save.
last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)

Music: *Beach Spring*, Traditional American

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Prayers of the People

With trust and love, we pray to you, Lord God.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension,
Good Lord, renew us.

By your commission to the Apostles,
Good Lord, send us forth.

By the coming of the Holy Spirit, who unites all things in heaven and earth,
Good Lord, make us one.

Strengthen and encourage all who do your work in lonely and dangerous places.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Open the hearts and hands of many for the support of your Church and the work of justice in every place.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our lips that our words may reflect your truth and your love.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our hands, that we may serve others with compassion.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our feet, that we may walk in the paths of peace.

Hear us, Good Lord.

I invite your petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings.

(Please add your own prayers)

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself, making the way of humility and service into the way of life and peace. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together to love and to serve, and that in every place your people call upon your Name, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.

Peace

You are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory & Collection

The ushers take a collection during the offertory anthem. We rely on the financial contributions of members and visitors and ask for your generous support. Ways of giving to St. John's are listed on page 2 of the bulletin.

Offertory
Sung by the choir

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston
(1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen Laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel By faith, I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought And pleasure dearly I have bought
I missed of all but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree

I'm weary with my former toil Here I will sit and rest a while
Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

— Traditional

The Doxology

Gelobt sei Gott

The people stand to sing the Doxology while the collection is presented at the altar.

To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the
Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for
life in us be - gun. Al - le - lu -
ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says

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

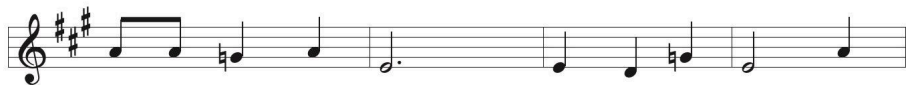
Norfolk Mass

John Karl Hirten

Sung by all.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, Heav-en and earth are



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na, ho -



san-na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, ho -



san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -



san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

The presider continues with the Eucharistic prayer, and then says:
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

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

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, and then says

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.*

Lord's Prayer

You are invited to raise your hands in prayer and blessing as we pray.

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

Presider 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.

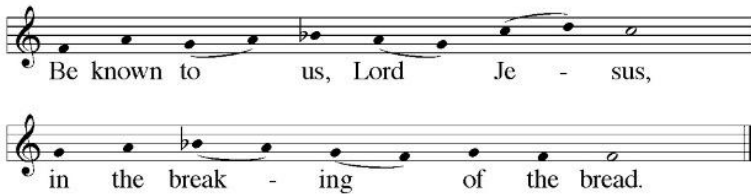
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Plainchant, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Please repeat refrain the first time after the cantor.



1. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
—*Refrain*
2. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.
— *Refrain*

Presider Holy things for holy people.

Administration of Communion

To receive communion please come forward and receive a piece of the consecrated bread from the priest. If you need a gluten free wafer please indicate that to the minister. If you would like to receive the common cup, please help guide the chalice so you may drink from it. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating your preference by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

Eastertide Carol

arr. Richard Proulx
(1937-2010)

Sung by the choir

Rise up in early morning; Sing of the risen Savior.
Sing tidings of salvation with Alleluias rising,
in cymbalis in cymbalis bene sonantibus.

— John of Damascus (ca. 754)

Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The presider offers God's blessing.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Occasions of Thanksgiving

All those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and occasions of thanksgiving are invited to come forward.

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God.

May God's powerful hands support you.

May God's guiding hands lead you.

May God's loving hands enfold you.

We rejoice in the hands of God. Amen.

- 1 I am the bread of life; they who come to me shall not hunger;
they who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draw them.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the last day.
- 2 I am the resurrection, I am the life.
They who believe in me, even if they die,
They shall live for ever.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the last day.
- 3 Yes, Lord, we believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God who has come into the world.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

— Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927)

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

**** Members of the congregation are always welcome to watch the organist play the postlude. Walk up the ramp behind the organ console. Parents with children are especially welcome, but please wait until the end to converse! ****

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the parish hall following the service.

FAITH-FILLED GATHERINGS

Sunday

8am: Worship

9am: Intergenerational Family Worship

10am:

Worship (in-person & live stream), Children's Sunday School, Morning Youth Group

Monday

7:30pm: Women's Bible Discussion (Zoom)

2nd Tuesdays

7:30am: Christian Meditation

6pm: Dinner Church

Wednesday

1pm: Bible Study

2nd Saturdays of the Month

8am: Men's Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newcomer Coffee: Today If you're new to St. John's or looking to learn more about us and how to get involved, please join us today 11:15am. We will gather in the Fireside Room after the 10am service during coffee hour for treats and conversation. For more information, contact Rev. Heather.

Dinner Church: May 12 All are welcome to the final session of the spring series, "Spiritual Fitness Training" in the parish hall, 6-8pm on Tuesday, May 12. The focus is what it means to be compassionate. When others face problems, are you inclined to fix or flee? In either case, this session on compassion is for you. There will be a list of reps on how to be more compassionate to others and ourselves. Suggested donation of \$10 to cover the cost of groceries. Please RSVP for dinner by Friday, May 8.

Men's Group Retreat: May 28-30 The St. John's Men's Group meets for its annual retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest, the Episcopal camp and retreat center deep in the redwoods near Occidental, California. The retreat begins in the afternoon on Thursday, May 28 and concludes at noon on Saturday, May 30, 2026. Enjoy good discussion, good food, good fellowship and community in a tranquil environment. Rev. Skip Fotch and Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams will help guide our discussion program. The fee includes two nights lodging, food and soft drinks. \$275: double occupancy; \$335: private room (limited availability.) To sign up go to stjohnsross.org.

Summer Kick-off BBQ: June 7 All are invited to a parish BBQ on the lawn after the 10am service on Sunday, June 7. A complimentary lunch is provided by our Men's Group. A bounce house will be available for children, youth and adventurous adults. A sno-cone truck from Kona Ice will be paying a visit too. Bring a friend!

Parish Weekend Away: September 11-13 Hiking trails, swimming pool, simple but well-appointed rooms, and amazing food! Join us at The Bishop's Ranch in Sonoma for our annual Parish Weekend Away 2026. This year we'll gather from Friday, 9/11 to Sunday, 9/13 for two days and two nights of fellowship, fun, rest, and spiritual development. Families, singles, and seniors welcome. To sign up go to stjohnsross.org.

Sunday School at 10 AM. We will have combined Sunday School classes in the month of May. We will meet in the Fireside Room. Kids from preschool through 5th grade are welcomed. After class, all children will proceed to the church to join their parents for Communion.

Sunday Morning Youth Group There is no morning Youth Group this Sunday. On most Sundays, all youth (grades 6th-12th) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 10am for a conversation about the question of the week. For more information, please contact Rev. Heather.

Women's Bible Discussion: Mondays On Monday evenings, 7:30-8:30pm, a group of women gather on Zoom to read and discuss books of the bible and sometimes other ancient texts. We are currently exploring the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Please contact Rev. Heather for more information.

Bible Study: Wednesdays All are welcome to participate in this in-person class on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Youth Room. We are currently exploring Redemption in the Bible. Please contact facilitator Ethan Dettmer for more information and to receive the syllabus.

Music Notes “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree” was written by an anonymous author and first appeared in 1761 in an English periodical called *Spiritual Magazine*, although it may predate that appearance by as much as thirty years. It appeared in an American hymnal in 1784, and became quite common in American hymn books thereafter. There are several biblical connections relating the so-called “Tree of Life” to Jesus Christ, although none of them specifically mention an apple tree. It is possible that the poem was written in response to the pagan practice of “wassailing,” one component of which entailed visiting orchards and singing songs to trees in apple orchards to promote a good harvest for the coming year. One of the most popular settings of this poem is by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987). A student of Vaughan Williams, she wrote scores for radio and television, edited hymnals and folk song collections, and also performed as a pianist.

The melody of the Eastertide Carol was first published in the 1628 collection of the Mainz *Gesangbuch*. Because of its historic importance as a center of printing, the *Gesangbuch* was one of the most influential Roman Catholic hymnbooks of the post-Reformation. The text of today’s piece was adapted by Richard Proulx in his arrangement and harmonization of the melody.

SERVING TODAY

(Worship Prep)

Anne Doyle	Altar Guild
Holly Kaufman*	Altar Guild
Susan Mackenzie	Altar Guild
Shelley Wilson	Altar Guild
Jennifer Bedford	Communion Bread Baker
open	Flower Angel

8:00 AM (Worship)

The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Skip Fotch	Clergy - Preacher
Joel Belway	Usher

9:00 AM (Family Worship)

The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher

10:00 AM (Sunday School)

Sandra Pathik	Sunday School - Teacher
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10:00 AM (Worship w/Choir)

Kevin Erdman (sub req.)	A/V - Audio
Bill Posner	A/V - Video
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Skip Fotch	Clergy - Preacher
Bill Kaufman	Eucharistic Minister
Marjorie Sun	Eucharistic Minister
Marian Mancini	Lector
Virginia Cunningham	Usher
Becky Hlebasko	Usher

11:00 AM (Parish Hall)

open	Host
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PRAYER LIST

Members

Melinda Booth
Ted Anspacher
Betty Enemark
Travis Wright
The Rev. Jan West
JT Sweet
Carol Hughes
Katie Hoertkorn
Signe Lando
Arlene Henry

Friends & Family

Will Kerslake	(son-in-law of Eleanor Prugh)
Cindy Sohl	(friend of Shari and David Kinney)
Sarah	(daughter of Paula)
Michael Daly	(son of Marty Daly)
Cathy	(friend of Marian Mancini)
Noelle Mullen	(former parishioner)
Ellie, baby of Aarti & Rick	(friend of Marian Mancini)
Kathy Behrendt	(daughter-in-law of Jamie and Joe Behrendt)
Mary Goff	(Sister of Betsy Bennett Smith)
Liz Colborn	(relative of Danielle Colborn Wright)
Melissa Mikesell	(friend of Danielle Colborn Wright)
Joy Burghardt	(friend of Anne Doyle)
Margie Burkel	(friend of Kristi Kaufman Lambert)
Vera Grigorian	(former parishioner)
Leslie Gay	(friend of Lauren Lamm)
Marcia Summers	(former parishioner)
Martin Ash	(friend of Alisa Quint)
Kayley Jones	(goddaughter of Rick and Marilyn Riede)
Tanya Jaspering	(daughter of Rev. Jan Heglund)

In Death

Osborn Howes

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Grace, Martinez

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Vision St. John's is a spiritual home that welcomes all, loves and respects all, and serves all in Christ's name

Our Mission We pray, worship and celebrate the Gospel
Responding to the needs of our communities
While building relationships to support us on our journey of faith

Clergy, Staff & Vestry

Bishop of California	The Rt. Rev. Austin K. Rios
Rector	The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams (<i>crw@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Associate Priest	The Rev. Heather Erickson (<i>heather@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Assisting Priests	The Rev. Skip Fotch (<i>sfotch@gmail.com</i>) The Rev. James Ward (<i>jimward2@mac.com</i>)
Bookkeeper	Henry Auriti (<i>bookkeeper@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Children's Ministry	Sandra Pathik (<i>sandra@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Stewardship	Lee Steward (<i>stewardship@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Choir Section Leaders	Mitch Ashley, Betsy Bennett-Smith, Lee Steward, Jessica House Steward, Paul Thompson
Choral Scholar	Ash Jones
Church Administrator	Virginia Kosydar (<i>virginia@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Music Director	John Karl Hirten (<i>john@stjohnsross.org</i>)
Treasurer	Susan Aley (<i>susankaley@gmail.com</i>)
Youth Ministry	Mike Lessin
Vestry	President: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams Senior Warden: Lexi Ford Kernot (<i>alexis.ford@gmail.com</i>) Junior Warden: Ethan Dettmer (<i>ethan.dettmer@icloud.com</i>) Michael Hiscott, David Petterson, Donalyn Hellarr, Marian Mancini, Katie McGee, Lauren Lamm, Paul Castro, Gene Cheston, Julie Flynn Siler, Katie Hindman

MAY

SUN

Worship
8am, 9am, 10am

MON

Women's Bible Discussion
7:30pm (online)

WED

Bible Study
1pm

**2ND
TUES**

Christian Meditation
7:30am

Dinner Church
6pm

**2ND
SAT**

Men's Group Breakfast
8am

**5/3
SUN**

Newcomer Coffee
11:30am

**5/10
SUN**

Youth Confirmands' Sunday
10am

**MAY
28-30**

Men's Group Retreat
@St. Dorothy's Rest

**6/7
SUN**

Summer Kick-off BBQ