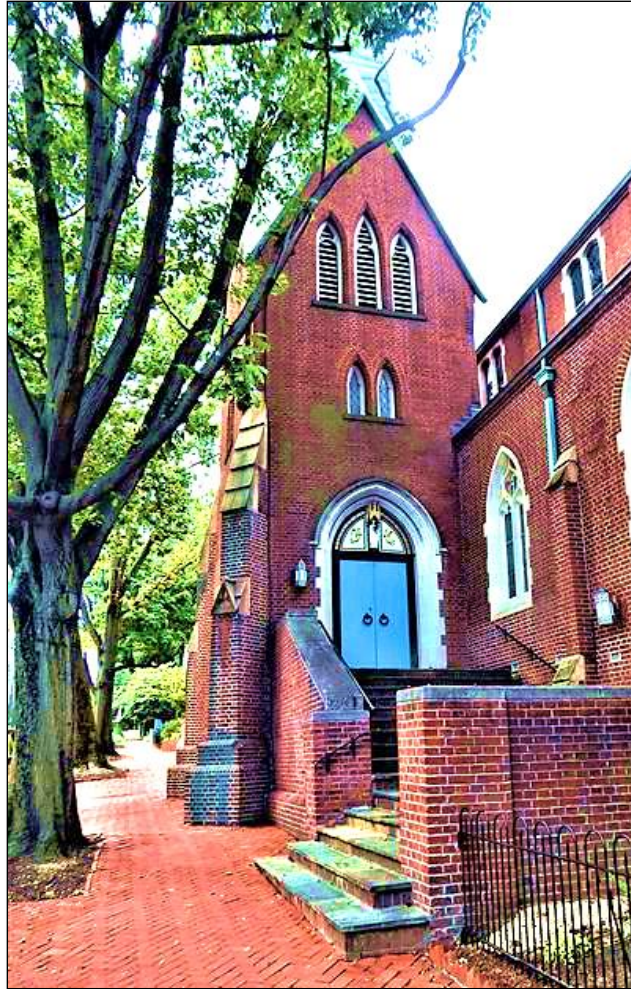


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
APRIL 26, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. Sunday School for children and youth takes place at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Education wing. A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

In addition to Sunday services, we also offer a Healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon and on Thursday at 9:00 a.m., Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. All are welcome to join!

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share, please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.

PRELUDE *Brother James' Air* Searle Wright

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!* **HYMNAL 205**

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY **BCP 355**

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.*

A SONG OF PRAISE *Glory to you* **HYMNAL S-236**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:42-47 *(please be seated)*

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Before the Lord's eternal throne

HYMNAL 391

Sing vs. 1-3 before the Gospel reading; vs. 4-5 after the Gospel reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:1-10 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. DR. JOE PRITCHETT

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

BCP 358

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. (*pause*)
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.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. John's, Hamlin; All Saints, Hanover; Lay Formation; and The Anglican Church of Nigeria.

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; we pray especially for our friends at home, **Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, Theresa Sullivan, Peggy Buscher, and Jim Crothers.**

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey and Kevin, our Bishops; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Emma and Kim, our seminarians,

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; especially Donald, the President; Josh, the Governor; Jaime, the Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us;

Unite us in bonds of love.

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; especially **Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Ann Marie, Karlah Gibbs, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, John Lawrence, Elly, Steve; Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz Skiles, Maria Wright, Kathy Emmert, Kate, Lyn, Julie and Tim, Tim Hyland, Molly and Kevin, Hannah Anderson, Denise Chandler, Kate Benson, and Janelle.**

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.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your
will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Thank you for your generosity as we seek to live into our mission and ministries. Together, our gifts make this community of welcome, reconciliation, and service possible. You can place your offering in the plates when they are passed or by using our secure QR Code. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

THE OFFERTORY *The Lord's My Shepherd* Thomas Kocchat

THE 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.* **HYMNAL 380 v.3**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D **BCP 372**

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 God thanks and praise.*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

THE SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.* **HYMNAL S-129**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
 hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
 sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to

Gratitude Dinner

MAY 2, 2026 5:00-8:00
ST. JOHN'S PARISH HALL

A dinner to honor the ministries of the folks who share our campus!
Immigration Clinic, NA/AA groups, theater and dance groups and other wonderful members of our community

Menu: Chicken Kiev, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert

.....
NAME _____

_____ Yes, How many? _____

_____ No, sorry can't make it.

Donations appreciated to cover the cost of the dinner and building improvements

RSVP by April 29th by mail or offering plate



St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Whether we're traveling around the world, around our neighborhood, or within our home we're often reminded of the question, "where did you see God today?" In some respects the answer will change depending on what we were looking at or looking for. When I look for God in my travels I find it helpful to let go of my past and where I already think I'll find the Holy. Such has been my week in Nigeria. You'll see in the news that sub-Saharan African churches are among the fastest growing in the world, measured by the number of baptized members. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican) counts almost more members than any other province in the world, second only to the Church of England. However, the Anglican churches here do not profess many of the things I grew up believing, and yet, God is here.

The church in Nigeria is at the center of the GAFCON movement, rejecting many European and "western" positions of theology they consider too liberal. For instance, they don't allow women to be priests or bishops, and have rejected the primacy of Canterbury. The recent news is the churches of the GAFCON movement have not officially left the worldwide Anglican Communion, but the threads holding us together are thin. The Catholic Church experienced the "Great Schism" in the late 1300's, when there were two Popes. We're not there, just yet, but I think there's something to learn from that history of different peoples in different parts of the world with different circumstances and life experiences traveling on their own life journeys, and looking for God along the way. Have you experienced raising a child in your traditions while demonstrating your beliefs, to have that child grow and move on to their own traditions and beliefs? Or maybe each of us was that child. English missionaries under the Archbishop of Canterbury planted Church of England Anglican traditions and beliefs here in 1842. In the almost 200 years since, the Church of Nigeria has developed its own traditions and beliefs, and reclaimed its indigenous culture. Just think of the changes in the Episcopal Church over the past 200 years. If a church is growing, it will most likely be changing. As I travel, if I'm only looking for God in all my usual places and forms and beliefs I'm likely to miss the image of God that my hosts are worshipping. We are one family, but we are not all the same. Not a melting pot, but a tapestry. And God is here.

Blessings to you always,
John Traveler

Community Choir Opportunity | Considering Matthew Shepard, A Suite

Calling all interested singers! St. John's and St. James Episcopal Churches are creating a community choir to perform Matthew Shepard, a Suite for a special Pride service on **June 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

Rehearsals will take place on **Thursdays evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. beginning on Thursday, April 23**, at St. John's (321 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA). To indicate your interest and availability to sing, please email, Minister of Music, Mark Herr at music@stjohns-lancaster.org. We would love to have your voice!

www.stjohns-lancaster.org

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist II with Choir
1:00 AM Education for Ministry

MONDAY

Administration Day/Office Closed

TUESDAY

2:00 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry
4:00 PM Community Dinner
(First Reformed Church)
5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing
2:00 PM Weekly Bible Study

THURSDAY

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Staff Meeting
2:30 PM Food Pantry

FRIDAY

Rector's Day off

SATURDAY

Messenger Articles are due

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Rob Kazee, Ecumenical Associate

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Mary Huber (*Jr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*),
Emma Luck (*Secretary*), Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Bruce Waskowicz,
Sarah Jones, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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