

The Parish of St. Laurence

EASTER VI

May 22, 2022 at 10:30 am



## Gathering of the Community

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

We ask visitors to introduce themselves and to join us  
for social hour after the service.

“The Gay, the Straight, the Preacher,  
The privileged, the homeless, the Teacher.  
They all hear  
The speaking of the Tree.  
They hear the first and last of every Tree  
Speak to humankind today. Come to me, here beside the  
River.  
Plant yourself beside the River.”      Maya Angelou

### Call to Worship

Presider    O God, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Maker of Love,

**All            You accept in us what we find difficult to acknowledge;  
                  You hold in your memory what we have tried to forget;  
                  You show us the glory we dream of and imagine.**

Presider    Reconcile us to all we have rejected in ourselves,  
                  that we may live lives of resurrection, wholeness and hope.

**All            Through Jesus Christ, our healer and our friend.  
                  Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn - *All Are Welcome*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this  
place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
Where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this  
place.

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Presider    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
              and the love of God,  
              and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you  
              all.

**All            And also with you.**

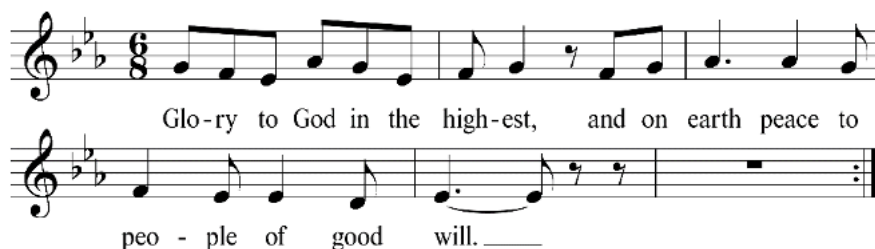
Presider    Almighty God,  
**All            to you all hearts are open,  
              all desires known,  
              and from you no secrets are hidden.  
              Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
              by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
              that we may perfectly love you,  
              and worthily magnify your holy name;  
              through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
All **The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Presider Then let us sing and celebrate the resurrection of all Creation.

## Glory to God

**Refrain (All); Verses (Choir)**



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## Collect of the Day

Presider Birthing God,  
whose Spirit's wings  
stir the waters of creation:  
hear our stories  
of paralysis and exclusions;  
accept our desire  
for welcome and acceptance;  
and lead us to find  
our dignity in your gift;  
Through Jesus Christ, the healer. **Amen.**

## Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading - Acts 16:9-15

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader Here what the spirit is saying.

All Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 67

<sup>1</sup>Favor and bless us, Lord.  
Let your face shine on us,  
<sup>2</sup>revealing your way to all peoples,  
salvation the world over.

<sup>3</sup>Let nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.

<sup>4</sup>The world will shout for joy,  
for you rule the planet with justice.  
In fairness you govern the nations  
and guide the peoples of earth.

<sup>5</sup>Let the nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.

<sup>6</sup>The land delivers its harvest,  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
<sup>7</sup>O God, continue your blessing,  
may the whole world worship you.

from *The Psalter* copyright 1995.

## Second Reading - Revelation 21:10, 22-22:55

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants

will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Reader Here what the spirit is saying.

**All Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Cantor*; then ***Refrain*** (All)



Reader May God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

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

**All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel – John 5:1-9**

After Jesus healed the son of the official in Capernaum, there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids-- blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when

the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

**All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily The Reverend Eric Mason

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory - *For Joy*

*Refrain (2x):*

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words aligned under specific notes or rests. The refrain is repeated twice. The first two staves contain the first part of the refrain, and the third and fourth staves contain the second part. The lyrics are: "May God be gra-cious to us, — And make His face shine down, May God be gra-cious to us, — And make His ways known." The word "Verses:" is written below the third staff, followed by two options: "1. Up - on our" and "2. Up - on our". The lyrics for the verses are: "hands that work, fields so green, Up-on out hearts that love, Up-on our homes so warm,".

May God be gra-cious to us, — And make His  
face shine down, May God be gra-cious to us,  
— And make His ways known. *Verses:* 1. Up - on our  
2. Up - on our  
hands that work, fields so green, Up-on out hearts that love,  
Up-on our homes so warm,



Up-on our minds that hope, Up-on our hopes so bright, Up-on our  
 mouths that sing, Let's sing, Sing, let's sing, For  
 kids so strong, joy, for joy, For joy, for joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 joy, for joy. Let's sing, Sing, let's sing, For  
 joy, for joy, For joy, for joy. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God our strength and our salvation

**All Receive our gifts, our lives and the offering  
 of our joy. Awake our souls and inspire us  
 with your life. Lead us on the path of wisdom  
 and compassion. Amen.**

## Celebration of our Sacred Meal

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

Presider We praise you and we bless you,  
holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.  
From before time you made ready the creation.  
Your Spirit moved over the deep  
and brought all things into being:  
sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters;  
and every living thing.  
You made us in your image, male and female,  
and taught us to walk in your ways.  
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.  
And yet, as a mother cares for her children,  
you would not forget us.  
Time and again you called us  
to live in the fullness of your love.  
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity:

*Holy, Holy, Holy* 7

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of  
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - sa - na, Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

Presider Glory and honour and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing  
servant, that she might conceive and bear a son,  
Jesus, the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.  
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the  
cross he sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,  
Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
and gave it to them, saying:

*Take, drink; this cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
given for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us,  
with all your saints from every tribe and language  
and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.  
All this we ask through Jesus Christ.  
By him and with him and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory is yours,  
Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav-en, hal-lowed be thy  
name; thy king-dom come, thy will be done on  
earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es, as  
we for-give those who tres-pass a - gainst us; and lead us  
not in-to temp - ta-tion, but 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, now and for - ev - er,  
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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*The Presider breaks the Bread and a period of silence  
is kept. The silence is broken with these words.*

Presider Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**All Now we are raised to new life.**

Presider We were buried in your tomb.

**All Now we share in your resurrection.**

Presider Live in us, that we may live in you.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Communion**

*Please know that at St. Laurence you are invited to the table. This sacrament is God's gift to all people. Please tell your server if you prefer a gluten free wafer. If you do not wish to partake at all, you may come forward and receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest.*

*Prayers for Healing — If you have special concerns and would like to pray with the Pastoral Care members during communion, please join them in the area to the right of the font.*

### **Communion Hymns - When We Gather at the Table**

1. When we gather at the table  
wine is poured and bread is broken.  
Then love claims us, offering healing,  
we hear welcome, gently spoken.

2. Jesus offers our thanksgiving  
blessing God for life we're given.  
From the earth comes grain to feed us  
watered by the rains of heaven.

3. Word of promise claims attention  
earth renewed by God's designing.  
All the creatures join in praises--  
God's intended wholeness finding.

4. Come, invited, now draw nearer,  
join this holy celebration.  
Here be strengthened, called to justice,  
living now God's new creation.

5. Christ, your coming and your hosting  
gives us place at widening table  
now embracing world and neighbor  
Spirit strong, by love enabled.

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### *Spirit of the Living God*

1. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

2. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.  
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

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## *Breath of God, Breath of Peace*

1. Breath of God, Breath of peace,  
Breath of love, Breath of life,  
Breath of justice, Breath of passion,  
Breath creating, Breath of healing,  
Breath of singing, Breath of praying,  
Come upon us,  
come restore us,  
come inspire us,  
Breath of God.

2. Word of God, Word of peace,  
Word of love, Word of life,  
Word of justice, Word of passion,  
Word creating, Word of healing,  
Word of singing, Word of praying,  
Come upon us,  
come restore us,  
come inspire us,  
Word of God.

3. Voice of God, Voice of peace,  
Voice of love, Voice of life,  
Voice of justice, Voice of passion,  
Voice creating, Voice of healing,  
Voice of singing, Voice of praying,  
Come upon us,  
come restore us,  
come inspire us,  
Voice of God.

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## Prayer after Communion

Presider Glory to God,

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

## Announcements

### The Blessing of Easter

Presider May God who has redeemed us and made us  
sons and daughters through the resurrection of  
Jesus, bestow on you the deep riches of God's  
blessing.

**All** **Amen.**

Presider May God, who through the water of baptism  
has raised us from loss into newness of life,  
make you holy and sacred and united to Christ  
for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

Presider May God who has brought us out of bondage  
into true and everlasting freedom, bring you to  
deeper into life.

**All** **Amen.**

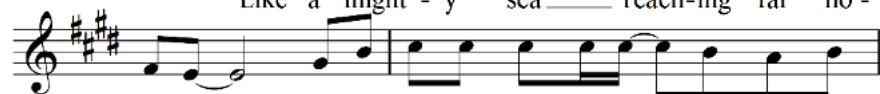
Presider And now may the blessing of the God of  
Abraham and Sarah; and of Jesus born of our  
sister Mary; and of the Holy Spirit who broods  
over Creation like a Mother over her children;  
be upon us and remain with us always.

**All** **Amen.**

# Recessional Hymn - *Like a Healing Stream*



Like a heal - ing stream in a bar - ren  
 Like a gen - tle rain on a thirst - y  
 Like a riv - er strong with a rest - less  
 Like a might - y sea reach - ing far ho -



de - sert, Spir - it wa - ter bring - ing life to dust - y  
 gar - den, Spir - it wa - ter come to nour - ish ti - ny  
 cur - rent, Spir - it wa - ter rush - ing on to dis - tant  
 ri - zons, Spir - it wa - ter with a love both deep and



earth, God is trick - ling through our lives as in a  
 seed, God is bub - bling through the soil to coax a  
 shore, God is carv - ing out a chan - nel in a  
 wide, God is work - ing in our hearts to shape a



dream un - fold - ing, prom - is - ing re - viv - al and re -  
 new cre - a - tion, yearn - ing for an end to want and  
 new di - rec - tion, call - ing for an end to hate and  
 new to - mor - row: God will al - ways chal - lenge and pro -



birth... like a heal - ing stream.  
 need... like a gen - tle rain.  
 war... like a riv - er strong.  
 vide! Like a might - y sea, like a riv - er



strong, like a gen - tle rain, like a heal - ing stream.

Deacon

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the  
power of the Spirit!

**All**

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



These flowers are dedicated in memory of  
Jessie Burton Donnan.

Loving Mother, Grandmother and Great grandmother from  
David, Vivian, Robert, Susan and Kaitlyn.



## THE FIRST READING ACTS 16: 9-15

As he walks on the beach near the city of Troas, Paul is on the western edge of Asia Minor. As he looks at the sun setting over the Aegean Sea, he is looking towards the edge of what would one day far in the future be called Europe.

This moment is immensely significant in Christian history. Paul is about to bring his story of Jesus Christ across these waters to a Europe that will one day take it to much of the rest of the world. In the morning he and his companions will take passage for the coast of Greece, to find their way eventually into the city of Philippi. From this encounter will come one the most flourishing Christian communities Paul ever founded.

In this reading we are once again hearing the theme of all these post-Easter Sundays. Boundary after boundary is being crossed in the name of the Risen Christ.

## PSALM 67

There is a statement in this song that makes a huge claim. “You(God) guide all the nations.” This long ago society cannot conceive of God as being less than universal. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves if our concept of God is as large and inclusive as that of the poet who wrote these verses.

## THE SECOND READING REVELATION 21:10, 22-22:5

“I saw no temple in the city for its Temple is the Lord God the almighty and the Lamb.” John sees no “temple” - in our terms no church? - in his envisioning of the Holy City. But we should not see this as suggesting the church to be irrelevant. It is certainly a flawed and very human entity but it is far from irrelevant. We have but to follow John’s gaze towards the throne of God to see the risen and

glorified Jesus in the image of a Lamb. Jesus submitted, sacrificing himself to becoming human, even accepting death, so that the church might be given birth.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 14:23 -29

“Those who love me will keep my word”, said Jesus. Heard casually, this sound gentle and soothing. After all the word “love” appears again and again. Yet if we listen carefully we realize this is a rather tough love. We’re being told that the test of love is that it emerges in action and behaviour.

Jesus says, “We will come to them (who keep my word) and make our home with them.” Jesus seems to be saying that faith in him - if it be sustained, genuine and grounded in action, becomes a relationship with him .

“I have said these things to you while...still with you. But the Holy Spirit...will teach you everything”. Christian faith is a process. We are all being called to deeper maturity. John is saying to his contemporaries that while their focus has been - and still is - on Jesus, this has to change. A spirit of holiness must now be found inside themselves. As you and I know, this is already true in our lives.

“I am going away and I am coming to you”. It sounds paradoxical but it’s the pattern of all our faith journeys. Faith comes and goes. I remember thinking of this verse while crossing to Lindisfarne across the wet sand after the tide had receded, allowing access to the island only to flood in again.

Herbert O’Driscoll

## A Prayer for healing

God of mercy,  
our hearts are broken  
for the violence that surrounds us,  
the violence that is within us.  
Heal our rage;  
mold it like a potter  
into wisdom and courage.  
But to not unbreak our hearts.  
Let them remain shattered  
for those who grieve—  
for we are all one family—  
and for our own part  
in a nation of violence.  
Mold our sorrow  
with your strong and steady hands  
into wisdom and courage,  
that we may speak and act  
to assist in the mending of this world,  
in the strength of your gentleness,  
the might of your mercy,  
the power of your love.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
*Unfolding Light*  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)



