



Christ Episcopal Church

Roxbury, Connecticut

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026 9:30AM

Ringing of the Bells

At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit, inviting all into a time of preparation for our worship. Please silence electronic devices.

Preludes

Prelude The *Trio* in G Minor from the *Notebook for Wilhelm Friedmann Bach* [BWV 929] of Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

The Rev. Jack Gilpin

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn *Holy God We Praise Thy Name*

Hymn 366, vv. 1-3

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People **The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Celebrant says

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

FROM MASS FOR CHRIST CHURCH ROXBURY IN F MAJOR
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GREGORY J. CAVA

Glo-ry to God in the hi-gh - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God. Hea-ven-ly King, Al - mi - gh-ty God and
Fa-ther. We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we pra - ise you for your glo-ry! Lord Je - s - us Christ; On-ly s - on of the
Fa-ther. Lord God. Lamb of God. You take a - way the sins of the world have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the
right hand of God: Fa-ther re-ceive our prayer. For you - a - lone are the Ho-ly One. You a - lone are he Lord.
You a - lo-ne are the Most High Je - sus Christ with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry o-f God the Fa - ther. A - men.
A - men. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Acts (7:55-60))

Read by Meg Mongin

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-5, 15-16 *In Unison*

Led by Meg Mongin

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (2:2-10)

Read by Meg Mongin

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight,
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer
spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *Thou Art the Way*

Hymn 457

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (14:1-14)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Jack Gilpin

The Nicene Creed *In Unison, please stand if able*

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 (based on Form VI)

Please stand or kneel as able.

Led by Jim Stanton

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our presiding bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, the ministers of Christ Church Roxbury, and all who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

We remember especially those for whom prayers have been requested: Ainsley, Annie, Bobby, Charlie, Chris, David, Deb, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Ed, Freddy, Genesis, James and Robert, Jamie, Jane, Jean, Jeffrey, Jerry, Joan, John, John and Pam, Judy and Mike, Judith, Kathy, Lance, Lily, Linda, Meg, Mia, Mike and Millie, Peter, Ryan, Sheila, Steve and Lisbet, Sydney, Timothy, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

Silence

Hear us Lord;
For we put our trust in you.

We pray for an end to war and all acts of violence of one group of people against another.
We pray for peace in the Holy Land.
We pray for an end to the violence and polarization that plague our communities.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

Please add your own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially for the immortal souls of the soldiers and innocent civilians who have lost their lives in the conflict in the Middle East. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Silence

Please add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

A Prayer While Awaiting a New Shepherd *In Unison*

Loving and Faithful God, You have guided our parish through seasons of joy and challenge. As we wait for the shepherd You have chosen for us, fill our hearts with patience, unity, and hope.

Bless those entrusted with the call to discern and decide. Prepare the heart of our future priest with wisdom, compassion, and courage, that they may lead us closer to You and serve with humility and love. Keep us steadfast in prayer, generous in service, and open to the new chapter You are writing for our community. May Your Spirit be our guide until we welcome our new pastor with joy. In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen.*

The Officiant says

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

Please stand as able. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Announcements *(Also see page of the service leaflet.)*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Hymn 324, vv. as necessary

*During the offertory hymn, the ushers will collect your gifts and bring them before God's Holy Table
The Celebrant receives the gifts and all sing:*

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

ARRANGED & VOICED BY
GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.

7
Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther,

14
Son, and Ho ly Ghost. A - - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 he 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:

Celebrant and people sing together

SANCTUS

FROM MASS FOR CHRIST CHURCH ROXBURY IN F MAJOR
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COMPOSED BY
GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Ho - ly Ho - ly - Ho - ly - Lord God of pow - er might, Hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry ry. Ho - sa - na - in the high est! Bles - sed is He who co - in the Name of the Lord
Ho - sa - na - in the high est! Ho - sa - na - is the high - est!

*The people stand or kneel.
Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

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

People and Celebrant

**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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Then may be sung*

FRACTION ANTHEM

GREGORY J. CAVA

FROM MASS FOR CHRIST CHURCH ROXBURY IN F MAJOR
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A - le-lu - ia! A - le-lu - ia! A - le-lu - ia! A - le-lu - ia! Christ, our pas-sov-er is
saf-ri-fi-ced for us; there-for-le-t us keep the feast. A - le-lu - ia! A - le-lu - ia!
A - le-lu - ia! A - le-lu - ia!

*Please come forward to receive communion either standing or kneeling along the altar rail.
You may receive either just the bread or you may dip the bread into the wine.
Gluten free wafers are also available.
If you do not wish to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.
Healing prayer is offered in the back of the church during Communion.*

Communion Anthem The *Novelette* [Opus 27 No. 5] of Dmitri Kabalvesky

The Celebrant says
Let us pray together.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

Recessional Hymn *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Hymn: 518, vv. 1 and 4

The people are sent with these words

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go for the into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

Postlude *Die Himmel rühmen des Ewigen Ehre"* (The Heavens are Telling the Glory of the Eternal) from the *Gellert Lieder* [Op. 48, No. 4] of Ludwig van Beethoven

Ringing of the Bells

Thank you to our ministers today.

The Rev. The Rev. Jack Gilpin, Celebrant

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Stanton

Welcoming: Peter Hurlbut

Lector: Meg Mongin

Altar Guild chair: Deb Howes

Sonneur: Larry Apolzon

Allumeur: Mike Snowden

Cover Art: The Last Supper, Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1834-1890

Permission to podcast the music in this service obtained from One License, License #A-733800, and Gregory J. Cava

Announcements

All are welcome to Coffee and Friendship in the parish hall today.

There will be **Healing Prayer** today during Communion in the back of the church, or speak with our healing minister, Judy Martinez.

Next Sunday, May 10th, there will be a service of **Morning Prayer** at 9:30 AM.

The next **regular vestry meeting** will be Tuesday, May 19th, at 4:30 PM in the Parish Hall and via ZOOM.

Compline and Healing Prayer will be offered at Bernhardt Meadow on Wednesday, May 20th

Don't forget the **Christ Church Tag Sale, May 16, 2026**
Saleable items and Volunteers are needed!
Call Anissa Roy at 860-316-8076



Christ Episcopal Church

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Right Reverend, Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan
The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan