



Mothering Sunday

Called to Mother in a Broken World

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

8:00am In-Person Worship

10:15am Online/In-Person Worship

St. John's Episcopal Church

Royal Oak, MI

Today's liturgy is adapted from Mothers' Union Liturgy for Mother Sunday from 2018-2019

St. John's Welcome Statement



Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do. At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016

Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!

Young Children – *with all their sounds and wiggles* – are very welcome in this church!

If you are here for the first time, please help us to get to know you by signing our Guest Book (clipboard in the entry of the church) and/or filling out a welcome card found in each pew. Place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. We are so pleased that you are here and want to do everything we can to help you make the most of St. John's Episcopal Church and its resources for your spiritual journey.

All are welcome to communion, where we share one bread, one body. To facilitate this, our communion bread is all gluten-free. All are welcome to St. John's programs and events.

Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is also known as **Laetare Sunday**. The name comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: "Laetare, Jerusalem" – Latin for "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." Falling just past the midpoint of Lent, this Sunday has long been seen as a moment of joy and encouragement on the Lenten journey. For this reason, the austerity of Lent is briefly lightened: flowers may appear on the altar, and the usual purple vestments of penance are replaced with rose colored vestments.

In many European countries, this day is also known as Mothering Sunday, a tradition that began centuries ago. At that time, many poor families sent their children to work as domestic servants in wealthier households. Once a year, on this Sunday, the children were given a day to return home and visit their mothers, their families and their home church. They often brought a Simnel cake as a gift.

Historically, this day was also when people from "daughter churches" of a parish would travel to the Mother Church – often an abbey or cathedral – to offer prayers and gifts.

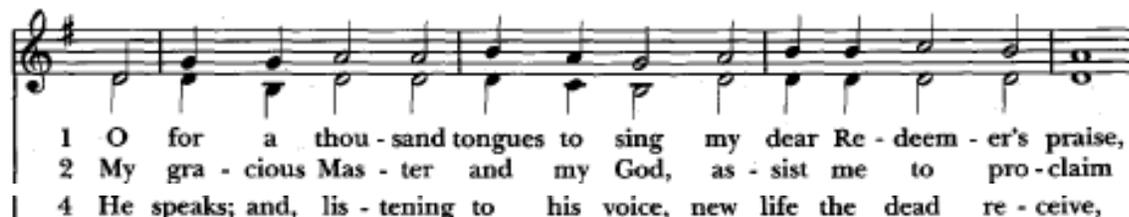
PRELUDE

At the ringing of a bell, the people stand

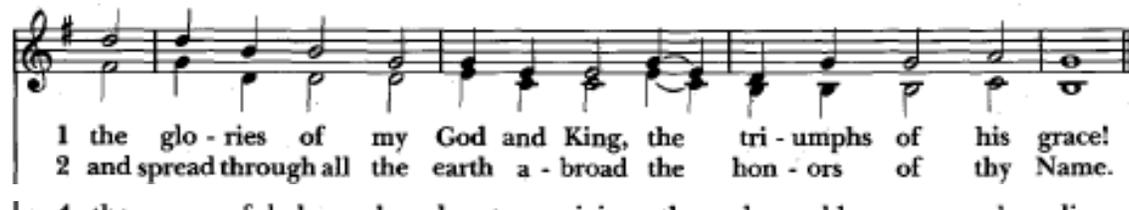
OPENING HYMN (*at 10:15a.m.*)

O for a thousand tongues to sing

The Hymnal 1982, 493, vv. 1,2,4,6



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

Celebrant Traditionally, in the British Isles, today is a time to celebrate our mother churches, the people and places that have nurtured our faith. But for many, this time comes with painful associations with motherhood, feelings of inadequacy or loss. Yet in Christ, we are given both comfort and family. We have come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, where we have failed to nurture each other. We come to receive love again from the God of compassion and mercy.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Celebrant Loving, compassionate God, as a mother hen gathers her chicks, so you draw the whole human family to yourself. Bring us together now, Lord, that we may today and forever be united under your wing in all our sorrows and joys.

All We rejoice with thanks for all who have mothered us in our lives. In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love, please use us to aid others as you do in providing comfort, nurture, protection, and support. We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us, so that we might celebrate your goodness together even through our own brokenness. Amen.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Celebrant †Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **We are all your children. You have called us by name, and we wait anxiously for renewal with faith in your eternal presence. Accomplish in us the work of your salvation. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE NEW RECTOR

All **Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. John's Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE (*Spoken at 8:00a.m.*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison (*at 10:15a.m.*)

The Hymnal 1982, S91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The people are seated

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Reader A Reading from the first Book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader A reading from John's letter to the Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN (at 10:15a.m.)

Loving Spirit

Voices Found 51, vv.1-2



1 Lov - ing Spi - rit, lov - ing Spi - rit, you have chos - en me to be;
2 Like a mo - ther you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own.

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
Feed me with your ver - v bod - v, form me of your flesh and bone.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a

person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

A period of silence is kept

THE CREED

The people stand as they are able

Celebrant Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Creator, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant In this broken world, as we wander in the wilderness, let us earnestly pray to God for the needs,
concerns, and hopes of all peoples.

Reader Father of mercy and God of all consolation, turn your gaze towards us as we humbly lift our
prayers to you saying:

All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader We praise and glorify you for your steadfast love and the nurture of all your children.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader We thank you for the body of your Church, all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people in their many ministries, and we pray you will teach us how to console and cherish each other as followers of your beloved Son.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader May the voices of all Christians be united as one voice, proclaiming a message of love and hope.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader May your Spirit of Truth enrich our Bible reading and prayer with the light of your wisdom.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader May the light of Christ shine into the darkness of injustice and suffering.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader May the circle of your love close around those whose relationships are broken and in need of your healing.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader Teach us to hold pain with the compassion and grace of our Lord Jesus.
We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, especially Barbara, Brody, Gloria, Carolyn, Mimi, Sandor, Kathy, Nancy, Madiba, Gayle, Sue, Elliot, David, Elaine, Allie, Jim, Cole, and those we now name _____.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader We pray for all who have †died, especially Thomas Wilson, and those we now name _____; and for those who have died and are known to you alone. May the faithful departed know the fulfilment of their hope as you receive them into your Kingdom to live with you forever and ever.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Reader May you fill our hearts with the assurance that our prayers will rise up to you as a fragrant offering and be pleasing to you.
All **Abide in our hearts. Show us your love.**

Celebrant O God of all, who makes us a new creation. Fill us with hope and joy, protect us from despair and apathy, and guide us to embrace one another in your reconciling love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

CONFESSION

The people kneel or stand as they are able.

Celebrant Come let us return to the Lord and say:

People **Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The peace is exchanged among the people

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY



Your pledges and financial gifts support the mission, the many ministries, the outreach, and the fellowship offered through St. John's.

Give online: stjohnsroyaloak.org and click on GIVE

Text: Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256

Mail: St. John's, 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067

OR scan this code to be directed to the giving page.

OFFERTORY MUSIC (*at 10:15a.m.*)

Amazing grace

arr. Jack Schrader

Oblation bearers bring forward the gifts of bread and wine on behalf of the congregation. The ushers pass collection baskets to gather our gifts of pledges and other offerings. At the Presentation Hymn, all stand. The ushers present our gifts at the altar. The Eucharistic ministers join the clergy to prepare for Eucharist.

PRESENTATION (*Spoken at 8:00a.m.*)

Celebrant All things come from thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

PRESENTATION HYMN (*at 10:15a.m.*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

The Hymnal 1982, 380, v. 3



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D: COMMON WORSHIP CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Almighty God, good to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People (spoken at 8:00a.m.)

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

The people stand or kneel as able

Holy, Holy, Holy (*at 10:15a.m.*)

The Hymnal 1982, S129

The musical score is written on four staves in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The melody features several triplet markings over the words "might", "full of your glo - ry", and "Ho - san - na".

Celebrant Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body, given for you all.” Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said, “This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.” This is our story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is our story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Send your Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the body and blood of Christ. Let us feed on these gifts with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All **Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will 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 (*spoken at 8:00a.m.*)

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Grant us your peace.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (at 10:15a.m.)

Lift Every Voice and Sing, 270

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note A4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4.

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "God, you take a way the sins of the". The vocal melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

The third system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "world: have mercy on us. Lamb of". The vocal melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

The fourth system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "God, you take a way the sins of the". The vocal melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: grant us peace.

This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The bread used for Holy Eucharist at St. John's is gluten-free. If you are unable to come to the altar, but desire Communion, please notify an usher.

Celebrant God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

People **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Healing - Those who would like prayers for healing may go to the healing station in the west transept for prayers during communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS (at 10:15a.m.)

In the bulb there is a flower

My Heart Sings Out, 86

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter -
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our

flies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of
 hope to you and me. From the past will come the
 life, e - ter - ni - ty; in our death, a res - ur -

win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 fu - ture, what it holds, a mys - ter - y, un - re -
 rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

My shepherd will supply my need

The Hymnal 1982, 664

1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me

is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
 is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
 all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be

makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream. _____
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. _____
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise. _____

He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
 There would I find a set - tled rest. while o - thers

sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
 ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
 go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger

mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. _____
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head. _____
 or a guest, but like a child at home. _____

The people stand as they are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken. Unite us with the scattered peoples of the earth that we may be one family of your children. Bind up all our wounds and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior. And the blessing of God the Creator, Christ the Sanctifier, and the Holy Spirit the Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (*at 10:15am*)

God of mercy, God of Grace

The Hymnal 1982, 538

1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy
2 Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -

face. Shine up - on us, Sa - vior, shine, fill thy
dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing glo - ry

Church with light di - vine, and thy sav - ing health ex -
to their Sa - vior King; let all be, be - low, a -

tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
bove, one in joy, and light, and love.

DISMISSAL

The people turn and face the clergy

Celebrant Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

People **Let us walk his way with joy.**

Celebrant Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security.

People **Let us walk his way with joy.**

Celebrant Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

People **Let us walk his way with joy.**

Celebrant Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

People **Let us walk his way with joy. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Altar Memorials and Thanksgivings

In memory of Josephine S. Spano

on the 110th anniversary of her birth, March 14, 1916.

We are grateful for all the love, support and encouragement she gave to us, as well as her exceptional example of kindness to everyone.

By her daughters, Eleanor Palazzolo, Nancy Maisel and Joey Spano

In thanksgiving for Josephine Misuraca

By Justina Misuraca

We continue to pray for ...

Lorie, Betty, Patty, Wilma, Gail, Nan, Chris, Jan, Linda, Dot, Ron and Chris (by Maryann LeComb & Kathy Stricker), Gabriel (by Kim Unrau and Maryann Maiuri), Gayle (by Pam Lupinski), Angelina (by Allyson Frank), Abby, Lois (by Marcy Darin), Johnny (by Susan Bonnen) Pail (by Rachel Andrews), Owen (by Cheryl Kline), Gene, Marg, (by Jannah Cole), Brody (by Bob Nagaj), David (by Janice Pendersen)

Contact the office at office@stjohnro.org or call (248) 546-1255 to update your prayer request

Ministers of Today's Service: The People of St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak

Acolytes

(8:00a.m.) Brian Craft

(10:15a.m.) Ian Babcock, Jennifer Bruns, Griffin Bruns

Altar Guild

(8:00a.m.) Kate Weide

(10:15a.m.) Betsey Morton, Bob Davis, Joyce Morey,
Katie Morton

Bread Baker

Linda Tucker

Eucharistic Ministers

(8:00a.m.) Kayleigh Long, Peg Coury

(10:15a.m.) Chris Moran, Nicole Stewart, Rachel
Andrews, Sharon Kennedy

Greeters

(8:00a.m.) Paulynn Auger

(10:15a.m.) Janice Pendersen, Joyce Morey

Greeters during service

(8:00a.m.) Paulynn Auger

(10:15a.m.) Steve Fairman

Healing Ministers

(8:00a.m.) Janet Craft

(10:15a.m.) Mary Adams

8:00a.m. Lectors

Barbara Lugger – First Lesson and the Psalm

Mary Gilhuly – Second Lesson and Prayers of the
People

10:15a.m. Lectors

Aubrey Muth – First Lesson and the Psalm

Dustin Walker – Second Lesson

Christy Scott – Prayers of the People

Musicians

Dr. Steve McGhee, *Music Director*,

St. John's Chancel Choir, Brooklyn Pfeffer, Laila
Robleh, Cailin Weber *Choral Scholars*

Opener/Closer

Pete Kelley, Steve Fairman

Parking Lot Greeters

Gregg Barnett, Richard LeJeune

Sunday School Teachers

Denise Barnett, Veronica Griffith

Tech Team

Laurie McLaughlin, Chris Bosley, Barbara Jones

Ushers

Jonatan Ascarruz-Asencios, Kirk Wicker, Kristine
Sprague, Tales Lima

Vergers

Rachel Andrews, Kevin McLogan

Interim Rector of St. John's

The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day, Coffee with a Cause in Church Library at 10:30a.m.

Wednesday, March 18 – Lenten Evening Soup & Prayer at 6:15p.m.

Sunday, March 22 – Worship at 8:00a.m. & 10:15a.m

Wednesday, March 25 – Lenten Evening Soup & Prayer at 6:15p.m.

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday, Worship at 8:00a.m. & 10:15a.m

Join us for Healing Service on Thursdays in the Chapel at 11:30a.m.

Need a room for a meeting?

Contact the church office at office@stjohnro.org or 248-546-1255 for info and availability

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2026

3 SUN DAYS IN LENT

Through March 29
8:00 & 10:15am

March 29 – Palm Sunday
April 5 – Easter Sunday



SPECIAL SERVICES

7:00pm

Wednesday, April 1 – Tenebrae
Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 3 – Good Friday
Saturday, April 4 – Easter Vigil

Easter Flowers

Easter flower dedication forms are due to the church office on **Monday, March 30th**.

Dedicating flowers in the sanctuary is a beautiful way to offer a **loving thanksgiving or memorial in honor of someone dear to your heart**. Each arrangement adds to the beauty of Easter Sunday and serves as a gentle reminder of gratitude, remembrance, and the love of God that continues to bloom among us.

Please return your order form by the deadline if you would like to dedicate flowers.

Please see an usher for a dedication form.

Questions? Contact the church office at office@stjohnro.org or call (248) 546-1255



St. John's Episcopal Church
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