

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Portland, Maine

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

9:00 AM

Welcome to our celebration of Christ's resurrection.

All that you need to participate in this service can be found in this leaflet.

The hymns with music are in The Hymnal 1982.

The people's responses are in bold print.

*As the altar candles are lit prior to the service and the chimes are heard,
all are invited to observe a time of quiet, to gather our hearts in a spirit of prayer.*

Welcome

The Rev. Myrna Koonce

Prelude Improvisation on a Lowell Mason Hymn

Seth Bingham

All stand for the

Hymn in Procession #410 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" *The Hymnal 1982*

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**2. Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in this faithfulness.**

**4. Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

All remain standing for the

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Collect for Purity

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.

The Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen**

All are seated for

The Lessons

The First Lesson *Acts 17:22-31*

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *Psalms 66:7-18*

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



⁷Bless our God, you /peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be /heard,

⁸Who holds our souls in /life,
and will not allow our feet to /slip.

⁹For you, O God, have /proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is /tried.

¹⁰You brought us into the /snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our /backs.

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



- ¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and /water;
but you brought us out into a place of re/freshment.
- ¹²I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my /vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in /trouble.
- ¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of /rams;
I will give you oxen and /goats.
- ¹⁴Come and listen, all you who fear /God,
and I will tell you what he has /done for me.
- ¹⁵I called out to him with my /mouth,
and his praise was on my /tongue.
- ¹⁶If I had found evil in my /heart,
the Lord would not have /heard me;
- ¹⁷But in truth God has heard /me;
he has attended to the voice of my /prayer.
- ¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my /prayer,
nor withheld his love from /me.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the

Sequence Hymn #652 "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" *The Hymnal 1982*

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!

4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

All remain standing for the

Gospel *John 14:15-21*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Homily

The Rev. Myrna Koonce

After a period of silence, all stand for the

Nicene Creed

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.

All are seated or kneel for the

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of God's praise to be heard, saying, "In your mercy, *hear our prayer.*"

Lord Christ, you have not left us orphaned but have given your Church an Advocate. May that same Holy Spirit teach us to keep your commandments and comfort us with divine love. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. John's in Brownville Junction, for members of the Commission on Ministry, and for children in foster care. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bless the suffering. May those who suffer for doing good find a friend in Christ Jesus. May those who suffer from disasters beyond their control find you attentive to the voice of their prayers. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of heaven and earth, you made the world and everything in it. You give to all mortals life and breath and all things. May we be faithful stewards of all you have created. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, bless the people of this city with a spirit of gentleness and reverence. May we be set free from fear to live, instead, in hope. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you are not far from each one of us. You love us as your children. Reveal your love, especially this day, to the sick and sorrowful. From our parish prayer list, we pray for Kay Gross, Lisa Gorham, Gerald and Anita Talbot, Peter Munro, Todd Cheney, Jay Sprout, Sandy Woolley, Amanda and Chris Conant, and those others we name, either silently or aloud. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, you hold our souls in life. You have saved us in baptism. Because your Son Jesus lives so do we rejoice in the hope of unending life in you. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

All stand for

Peace

Presider The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Sentence

During the Offertory Hymn, the people's offerings are received. General offerings for the church's ministries may be placed in the larger offering plate, and offerings for the Project Feed Food Pantry may be placed in the smaller plate. General offerings can also be made using the Venmo QR code.



All stand for

The Offertory Hymn # 658 "As Longs the Deer for Cooling Streams"

The Hymnal 1982

1. As longs the deer for cooling streams
in parched and barren ways,
so longs my soul, O God, for thee
and thy refreshing grace.

2. For thee, my God, the living God,
my thirsty soul doth pine:
O when shall I behold thy face,
thou Majesty divine?

3. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
the praise of him who is thy God,
thy health's eternal spring.

4. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

The Presentation Hym

**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.**

The Presider continues, concluding with

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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

After a period of silence, all join in singing the

Fraction Anthem #S 155

The Hymnal 1982

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Administration of Communion

All are invited to come forward as directed by the usher and stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive communion. Please let an usher know if you would like to receive communion in your pew. Gluten-free consecrated bread is available; simply ask the priest when you are being served if you would like one.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

Those who cannot be with us to partake in communion in person are invited to pray the

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

All stand for the

Blessing

Hymn in Procession

#618 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

The Hymnal 1982

1. Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Prelude to the Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Ministers Serving Today

The People of God, called to be St. Peter's Episcopal Church, *Celebrants*

The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Presider & Preacher*

Mr. Herbert Taylor, *Organist*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Ms. Emily Hickey & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Eucharistic Ministers*

The Hickey Family, *Lectors*

Mr. Tom Ainsworth, *Usher*

Mr. Bob Simmons, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Meredith Tipton & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Counters*

Mr. Rodney Richard & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

The altar flowers and sanctuary lamp are given by Anita Chandler in loving memory of Edna S. Chandler.

Announcements

Welcome to all of you joining us this morning. If you are new to St. Peter's and want to learn more about us, please fill out one of the pew cards and place in the offering plate or give to an usher.

Please join us for coffee hour in the undercroft.

Opportunity for the Sacrament of Baptism on May 24. The Day of Pentecost (May 24th this year) is one of four occasions listed in the Book of Common Prayer as particularly appropriate for administering the sacrament. If you have never been baptized, or if you have family members whom you may wish to baptize, please be in touch with Rev. Myrna, so that preparations can be made.

Offering our gifts to God is part of our worship whenever we gather. Offerings are received during the Offertory. You may also mail your gift to: St. Peter's Church, 10 Alton Street Portland, ME 04103, or you can give online directly to St. Peter's by going to our website. Offerings can also be made through Venmo. See the back page of this leaflet for information about Venmo. The second offering plate is for donations to Project Feed, our local emergency food pantry.

This Week at St. Peter's

St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry Volunteer Date, Tues. May 12, 8:30-11 am, St. Luke's
Compline, Wed. May 13, 7:00 pm, Zoom

Coming up at St. Peter's

Youth Service Corps "Lock In" Overnight Event, May 16-17, First Congregational UCC, South Portland
Day of Pentecost and Holy Baptism, Sun. May 24, 9 am, Church
Celebration of New Ministry, Sun. June 7, 4 pm, Church

NOTES ON THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

After graduating from Yale and studying organ and composition in Paris, Seth Bingham (1882-1972) served as professor of music at Columbia and organist for 40 years at New York City's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. He composed in a variety of forms, and several of his compositions were performed by major symphony orchestras in this country and Europe. Lowell Mason (1792-1872) is known as the "father of American church music"; from a distinguished career in Boston, he traveled to Leipzig, Germany, and subsequently became the organist at New York City's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, whose robust congregational singing achieved world-wide acclaim.

"Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven" was written by Henry Francis Lyte. The hymn is frequently sung in the United Kingdom and was used in the 1947 royal wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, now the late Queen Elizabeth II, and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Born in Scotland and educated at Enniskillen and Trinity College in Dublin, Lyte's most important position was Anglican curate at Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England, where he served for 24 years. The popularity of this hymn has been significantly enhanced by LAUDA ANIMA, Sir John Goss' stirring melody written in 1869 expressly for these lyrics. Its inclusion in Hymns Ancient and Modern (1875 edition) and in The English Hymnal (1906) have made it one of the most broadly sung Victorian hymns, used most recently at both Queen Elizabeth's funeral and at King Charles' coronation.

The great American poet John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), a devout Quaker, lived to see portions of over 30 of his poems set to music as hymns for congregational singing. Of these, Dear Lord and Father of

Mankind, still in widespread use in America and Great Britain, was set to the tune Rest by Frederick Maker, a talented organist and choral conductor who spent nearly all his life in the port city of Bristol, England.

Our concluding hymn--"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"-- was written by Athalstan Riley (1858-1945), one of the editors of "The English Hymnal" of 1906. An Oxfordian scholar, Riley translated a number of hymn texts from Latin and Greek, but this one seems to have been an original. The first stanza names the nine orders of angels who praise God, and in stanza four, all are urged to "lift their voices" to the Holy Trinity. No one is exempt from singing!

The Baroque French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) was active during the reign of Louis XIV when all the arts--drama and music especially--were victims of court intrigue and backbiting on a grand scale. Charpentier cleverly used his connections to Louis' first cousin, Mlle. de Guise, and son, the Dauphin, to deflect the jealous machinations of the official court composer Lully, who bitterly resented Charpentier's popularity among members of the Royal family. His Prelude to the Te Deum is not unlike an English trumpet tune, but its dotted rhythms and ornamentation give it a decidedly French flavor. ~ HT

St. Peter's Episcopal Church A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

The Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, *Bishop*

The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Priest in Charge*

The Rev. Emily Kenniston, *Transitional Deacon*

Mr. Herbert Taylor, *Organist*

Mr. Bruno Mbongo *Sexton*

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