

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PRAY. GROW. SERVE.



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2026

2175 1st Street, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
651.429.5351 | www.stjohnwilderness.org

A GREETING TO OUR GUESTS

We welcome all, really and truly!

We welcome you today to the parish of St. John in the Wilderness. We welcome cradle Episcopalians and those who say, “episco-what?” We welcome soccer dads and hockey moms; we welcome wild-eyed progressives, staunch conservatives, and everybody in between. If you’re a proud hippie, step right up. If you wear a tie, even with your pajamas, come on in. Tree-huggers, check. Drivers of gas-guzzlers, yup. Vegans and those who order only meatlover’s pizza are both welcome. We welcome those with crying newborns and those who avoid kids at all costs. We extend a welcome to those who are single, married, widowed, divorced, gay, bi, trans, or straight. This faith community has people with much, people with just enough, and a whole bunch somewhere in the middle.

We welcome you if you have always loved church or if church just isn’t your thing. You are welcome here if you are church shopping, if you already have a faith community that is just right, or if you have no intention whatsoever of joining a church. If you work too much or too hard, you are welcome here. If you haven’t worked a day in your life, you are welcome here. For those who love all things literary as well as those who have always had trouble choosing between “lie” and “lay,” this is your place. If you came here today because you felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit, welcome. If you came because your Mom guilted you into it... well, welcome. You had best do as your mother says!

In short, we welcome everyone to get to know this faith community of St. John’s. Really and truly. We welcome you because we all need community; we all need support; and many of us here at St. John’s have learned that faith really does help us along the journey.

Everyone is invited to participate fully in worship, to receive Holy Communion, and to join in the life of our faith community. We base our worship on *The Book of Common Prayer*, *The Hymnal 1982*, and *The Bible*. These books are in the pews. To learn more about St. John in the Wilderness, please speak to an usher or a clergy person. Following worship, please join us for refreshments and fellowship. Again, thank you for joining us today!

HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Episcopal Church uses a number of resources in our worship. Our music is found in the blue hymnals found in the pew racks. Red copies of the **Book of Common Prayer** and black copies of the **Holy Bible** are also found in the pew racks. Feel free to find the prayers and the scripture readings in these books.*

Prelude

Ringling of the Calling Bell

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal, no. 405

Royal Oak: "All things bright and beautiful"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Collect for Purity

Presider

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.**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

MHSO, 9

Refrain

1
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 2
in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 4
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
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Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 225

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

The people may be seated for the reading of the lessons.

First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

Reader A reading from Acts.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For 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. The 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, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From 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, so 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. For ‘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.’

Since 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because 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.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Psalm 66:7-18

BCP, p. 673

(8:00am) Reader: Let us read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

(10:00am) Once introduced, the people sing the refrain as noted, reading the psalm in unison.

♩ = 90 Ami B^b Ami C/
B^b vamp in Dm

We walk through fire and wa - ter while you lead us in - to life.

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

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

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

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

Refrain

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I 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.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

Refrain

15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

Refrain

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Reader A reading from first Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but 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; yet 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. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who 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. And 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

My Heart Sing Out, no. 20

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia! _____

Gospel: John 14:15-21

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

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This 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.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They 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."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Margaret Thor

After a period of silent reflection, please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made truly human.
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 is worshiped and glorified.
And 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.

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayer

Presider

God of constant love, be with us now in our times of uncertainty; hear and respond as we pray for the church and for the world.

Intercessor

We pray for the church universal, that the circumstances of this world will lead us into new ways of being the good dream of God; a body of people who love and serve God and neighbor.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation, and all nations, that we might live in health, safety, and peace. We pray for those who govern, that they keep the needs of all people as their first priority; and that truth and mercy are their closest companions.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor, the hungry and the marginalized and for those whose life's work is to help them with basic needs and the ability to thrive.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our unique situations and needs. For health, for the safety and happiness of our families, for our coworkers, friends, neighbors. We pray especially for those things that bring us fear or anxiety, asking that we might shed our concerns and be at peace.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick or suffering, that they might know healing and wholeness. (*We invite your prayers silently or aloud.*)

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving for this life and, in faith, for the life to come. Bless the dying with your grace and welcome. Grant us also the hope of heavenly reunion in the age to come.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

Presider

God of love; you know our needs greater than we know them ourselves; hear us and answer us as you have always done and clothe us in your loving grace that we might fully be your son's continuing work in the world; and all this through Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and always. **Amen.**

Peace

BCP, p. 360

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

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Hymnal, no. 385

Dakota Indian Chant (Lacquiparle): "Many and great, O God are thy works"

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Please stand as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Enriching Our Worship

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

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus (*spoken at 8:00am; sung at 10:00am*)

Hymnal, no. S-128



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

Celebrant

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him.
So come to this table

 you who have much faith,
 and you who would like to have more;
 you who have been to this table often,
 and you who have not been for a long time;
 you who have tried to follow Jesus,
 and you who have failed.

Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome at God's table. One may receive the sacrament at the foot of the stairs leading to the Chancel or kneeling at the altar rail. We use gluten, dairy and soy free bread for communion. We also use real wine. When receiving the wine, we ask that you refrain from intincting (dipping) the bread into the chalice. Rather, when receiving the wine, drink directly from the communion chalice. Receiving the sacrament in one kind (either the bread or the wine) is both wholly appropriate and fully efficacious.

Communion Anthem

“Slow me down”

by Porters Gate

O good shepherd, would you teach me how to rest
I'm rushing on, will you make me to lie down
Will you build a fold by the waters that refresh
Will you call my name and lead me safely out?

From my anxious drive to labor on and on
From the restless grind that has put my mind to sleep
Will you call me back and gently slow me down
Will you show me now what to lose and what to keep

O Good Shepherd, O Good friend slow me down.

When my table's bent with only greed and gold
And my grasping hands are afraid you won't provide
Will you pour the wine that loosens up my hold
Set your table here with what truly satisfies

On the busy streets trying to make myself a name
If the work is yours, there is nothing I can claim
Will you home to the pastures of your peace
The house is yours, i'm sitting at your feet

People and Celebrant

God of abundance,
 You have fed us
 With the bread of life and the cup of salvation;
 You have united us
 with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one
 with all of your people in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth
 In the power of your Spirit,
 That we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 And continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant

May the risen Christ enfold you in his Presence, breathe fresh life into all your days, and assure you that God's love is greater than any difficulty or darkness you may encounter. The blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always. Amen.

Sending Hymn


Voices Found, no. 213

The Ash Grove: "Let all things now living"

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 His law he en - for - ces, the stars in their cours - es and
 God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the hills and the
 made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us
 moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the deeps of the
 on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, his
 o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We too should be voic - ing our



light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
love and re - joic - ing; with glad a - dor - a - tion a song let us



night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -



ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
giv - ing: "to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Please join us following worship as we gather in the Parish Hall for light refreshments and hearty fellowship. If you are a guest this morning, please introduce yourself to one of the ushers or to one of our clergy. We would delight in getting to know you better.

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Altar Flowers

Service Participants

Celebrants	The Gathered People of God
Altar Guild	Tracy Angelo, Kelly DeSmet
Greeters	Tony Angelo (8:00) Amy Okaya, Barb Livermont (10:00)
Crucifer	Nick Pearson (10:00)
Verger	Jason Knauss
Lectors	Debra Smith (8:00) Wendy Muscanto (10:00)
Intercessor	Sofia B. (10:00)
Ushers	Dennis Thoemke (8:00) Brent & Joanna Torgerson (10:00)
Eucharistic Ministers	Susan Blake, Tom Hove (8:00) Andrew McClaren, Nick Howe, Chris Lilley (10:00)
Hospitality	Lisa Brock, Nichole Korth
Livestream	John Pasch
Musicians	<i>Hearbeat:</i> Rita Bergman, Nick Howe, Matt Landby, Sylvia Lovett, Will McBride, Matt Miller, Amy Okaya, Carrie Thomas, Mark Sears, Stephanie Sulentic, Sherry Kruczek
Music Minister	Alec Watson
Intern	Chris Lilley
Deacon/Preacher	The Rev. Margaret Thor
Presider	The Rev. Kate Maxwell, OSB
Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Brad Hauff

St. John's Ministry Team

Vestry: Jackie Danda, Mike DeMars, Ross Jahnke, Gretchen Brunner, Tom Hove,
Joanna Torgerson, Jen Miller, Nick Pearson

Clerk: Tracy Angelo

Treasurer: Barry Kostyk

Junior Warden: Larry Mahoney

Senior Warden: Mike Carpenter

Nursery: Lorna Cessna

Sexton: Jake Malark

Financial Coordinator: Maureen Vruno | maureen@stjohnwilderness.org

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Deacon: The Rev. Margaret Thor | margaret@stjohnwilderness.org

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