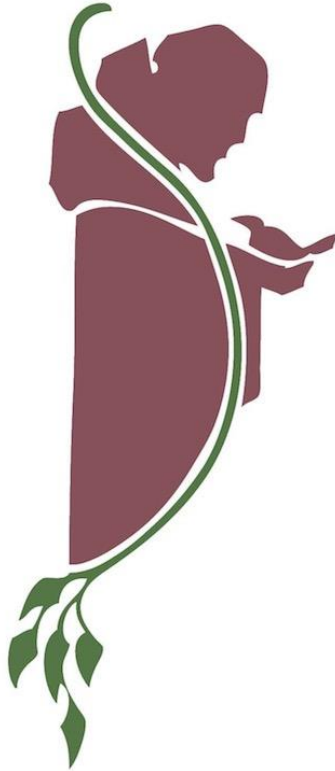


# The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

## ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



**Welcome** in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

The fifty days of Easter provide us with an opportunity to renew ourselves to the Baptismal Covenant and awaken to the presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we pray that Christ will be revealed to us "on the Way."

*All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.*

### **ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:**

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

**HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*Hail the day that sees him rise*

**Hymnal 214**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**BCP 355**

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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:**

8:00 a.m. *spoken*

**BCP 356**

10:00 a.m. *sung*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When

he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;<br>let those who hate him flee before him.   | 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down<br>rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,<br>at the presence of God, the God of Israel. |
| 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind<br>drives it away; as the wax melts at the fire, so<br>let the wicked perish at the presence of God. | 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your<br>inheritance; you refreshed the land when it<br>was weary.                                     |
| 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice<br>before God; let them also be merry and joyful.   | 10 Your people found their home in it;<br>in your goodness, O God, you have made<br>provision for the poor.                                   |
| 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;<br>exalt him who rides upon the heavens;<br>YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!                    | 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;<br>sing praises to the Lord.   |
| 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows,<br>God in his holy habitation!   | 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;<br>he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.   |
| 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings<br>forth prisoners into freedom;<br>but the rebels shall live in dry places.                         | 35 Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over<br>Israel; his strength is in the skies.   |
| 7 O God, when you went forth before your<br>people, when you marched through the<br>wilderness,   | 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places!<br>the God of Israel giving strength and power<br>to his people! Blessed be God!                  |

**SECOND READING:** *1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*See the Conqueror mounts in triumph*

**Hymnal 215**

**GOSPEL:** *John 17:1-11*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

Matt Surabian

**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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

...for Miguelina, our Bishop, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for the community of St. Francis; and for all ministers and people.

... for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; for the parish of Trinity Church, Milford; for the mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

...for Donald, our President and Maura, our Governor;

... for all Federal and State employees, for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, David Lane, Riley Smith, James Cimochoowski, Sam Richenburg;

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Andrew, Kate, Graham and Eleanor Jensen; Hank and Regina Kamyck; Karen Kappes; Brion, Pamela, Noah, Kathryn and Abigail Keagle;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison, and for those in need of healing: Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, John Dougherty, Paul Stanovich, Tom, Bev, Judy Crosby, Brenda, Hilda Schinsing, Judy Capone, Mary Lee and Bob Kraushaar, Jen Gadowski, Jeanette, James Kelly, Carmelita Bello, Andrea McDonald, Mary Mullahy, Kathy Vogel, Richard, Donna Giuliani, Angela Favulli, Patrick Kelly, Priscilla Morris, Maryann Bello, Mark, Lisa, Abigail Runstrom, Jane, Nancy, Jim Emard, Matthew Parenteau, Brook, Leslie Rosario, Mary Lynn; those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died that your will for them may be fulfilled; and that they may share with Francis, Clare and all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant adds a final collect.*

**THE PEACE**

**BCP 360**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.    *When Christ was lifted from the earth*

**Hymnal 603**

**OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY**

8:00 a.m.    *All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***

10:00 a.m.

Tune: Hymnal 380

***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.***

*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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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:

**SANCTUS**

**8:00 a.m. (spoken)**

**10:00 a.m. (sung)**

**Hymnal S-130**

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

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,

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

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 Francis, Clare, and 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 pray,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

**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.**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM:**

8:00 a.m. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:00 a.m. Agnus Dei **Hymnal S-164**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** 10:00 a.m. *Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise* **Hymnal 345**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BCP 365**

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.

**EASTER BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*

**Hymnal 544**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**BCP 366**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Bev Giarusso, Lucy Nowak, Kim Whamond

Nursing Home: Bev Giarusso

8:00 a.m.

Reader/LEM: Chris Berglund

10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Steven and Mary Cook

Reader: Cindy Foley

LEMs: Laura Caswell, Mary Cook

Coffee Hour: Laurie Sanchez

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

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