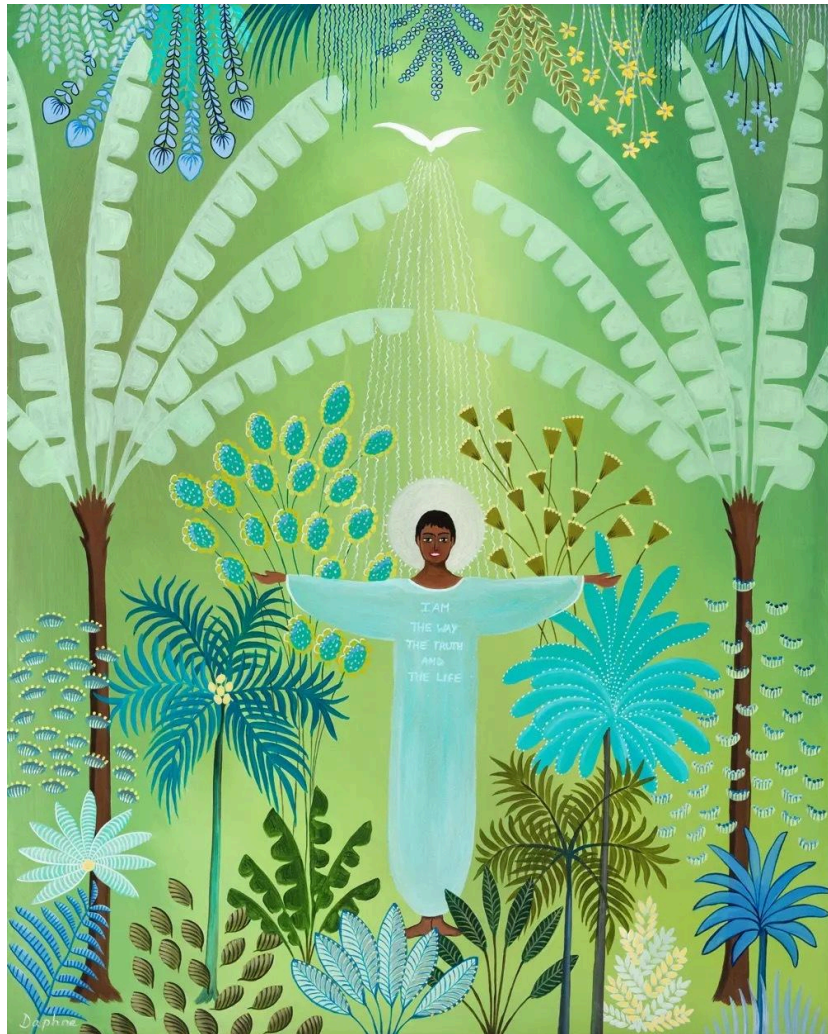


st. peter's chelsea



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:00 AM

Note for parents: We love the “joyful noise” of kids and welcome them into our worship! In the back of the church, there is an area with children’s toys and books. If you need a quiet space, the rectory is open and available with toys and a diaper changing station. You are welcome there anytime or you can ask a greeter for help.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought in the day and the night
Waking or sleeping, thou presence my light

Riches I need not, nor man’s empty praise
Thou mine inheritance through all of my days
Thou and thou only though first in my heart
High king of heaven my treasure thou art

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me lord
Thou our great Maker and I thy true one
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

WORDS: Irish Hymn; tr. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull / MUSIC: SLANE, Irish Melody; harm. David Evan

OPENING ACCLAMATION

+ indicates a place where we traditionally cross ourselves

Celebrant +Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Please be seated.

PREPARING TO LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 7: 55–60

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM | Psalm 31: 1–5, 15–16

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Please rise.

GRADUAL HYMN

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. It ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The piano accompaniment includes a '2' below the final measure, indicating a second ending.

Celebrant +The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL | John 14: 1–14

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Children ages 3 to those in 5th grade are invited to a time of children's worship; they return to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Lisha Epperson

Please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Into your hands, O God, we commend what we cannot hold alone. When our hearts grow restless and the road before us turns uncertain, draw us - your Church - back to the ground of trust. Make us a people who know the difference between a house built on fear and a house built on love. Root us in the way of Christ, that our life together becomes our testimony.

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

For those who lead - nations, cities, neighborhoods, and the daily life of communities: grant them the courage to choose dignity over convenience. Where power has grown comfortable with harm, trouble it. Where fear has made the possible small, open a wider imagination. Let those who govern remember that authority is given for the flourishing of all - not some, not the powerful, not the familiar.

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

For all who are carrying something they were not meant to carry alone: those facing decisions with no clear answer, those waiting in the silence before news arrives, those searching for work, those living with change they did not choose, those exhausted by the labor of holding themselves together. Let your face shine upon them. Give them rest that goes deeper than sleep, and companions brave enough to stay.

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

For those whose suffering has no name others will speak aloud - those wounded in body, mind, or spirit; those living with illness, with grief, with addiction, with the slow weight of quiet sorrow. You are not embarrassed by their need. Be for them shelter, breath, and strength. Make us the kind of people who do not look away, who understand that tending to one another is less about charity and more about covenant.

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

For this community - for the ordinary rooms where love is required of us: our homes, our streets, tables, and churches. Teach us to follow Christ in ways that can be touched and tasted ... in ways that can be seen. Make us generous with what we have been given, gentle with what others carry, and ready - in every small and unremarkable moment - to become who we say we are.

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

For those who have died, and for those who grieve them. Receive the departed into the house prepared in love, the dwelling place that has always been ready. And for those who remain: when absence is sharp and the days feel long, keep us in the company of your mercy. Let grief be honored. Let sorrow, in time, be gathered into peace.

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

Lord Jesus, you are the path, the only thing that doesn't lie. You are our breath and becoming. Stay with us when we cannot see clearly. Lead us forward by the grace of your company. Make us brave in love. For you live and reign with the Eternal One and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

*Please connect with us on our website
by using the QR code:*



*You can give in the offering box
near the doors, through our website
or by using the QR code:*



OFFERTORY SONG

*“Ain’t No Grave” by David Crowder
Performed by Jessica Smith and team*

Please rise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

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, 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, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS: *Book of Common Prayer* MUSIC: *Brian Milner, from Mass for the Beloved*

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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All **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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant This is the table of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have
little, you who have been here often and you who have
not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invites
you to be known and fed here.

*If you would like to receive communion, hold your palms open when the celebrant comes to you. All wafers are
gluten-free. If you prefer a blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

It Is Well / Ain't No Grave

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Ain't No Grave

Oh my Lord it's a winding road
It's all bent from a heavy load
Feel the weight beneath the ground
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

Oh my Lord I can barely sing
Waiting for You and Your reckoning
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

I will rise, I will rise
I will rise, I will rise
Troubles come for everyone
Death has no respect for love
Roll that stone, I won't be found
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

Lord, I'm bruised from head to toe
Got dirty hands and a dirty soul
I was lost, but now I'm found
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

I will rise, I will rise
I will rise, I will rise

Troubles come for everyone
Death has no respect for love
Roll that stone, I won't be found
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

Woah, woah
Woah, woah
Feel the weight beneath the ground
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

I will rise, I will rise
I will rise, I will rise
Troubles come for everyone
Death has no respect for love
Roll that stone, I won't be found
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

Woah, woah
Woah, woah
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down

WORDS/MUSIC: David Crowder / Hank Bentley / Seth Owen Philpott

Please rise.

Celebrant
All

Let us pray.

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.

FINAL BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN *Let It Rise*

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the praises of the King rise among us
Let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the joy of the Lord rise among us
Let it rise

Oh... let it rise.
Oh... let it rise!

WORDS/MUSIC: Holland Davis

DISMISSAL

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S CHELSEA!

We're so glad that you joined us today! Please sign up for our weekly email newsletter at www.stpeterschelsea.org, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @stpeterschelsea and find out more ways to get connected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enneagram Class, Sundays, May 3, 10, and 17 from 11:30-12:30 pm. Please join us TODAY in the rectory after the service for a 3-part Enneagram class taught by Ian Trevethan. The Enneagram of personality is a wisdom tradition that can enable us to better understand ourselves and our relationships.

PENTECOST & PIES CELEBRATION, Sunday, May 24. On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. We invite you to wear red (the liturgical color for Pentecost) and join us to celebrate over PIES of all kinds during Coffee Hour after the service. Interested in contributing a pie? Email office@stpeterschelsea.org and let us know.

Confirmation and Reception at the Cathedral, Saturday, June 6. Are you interested in being confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine? If so, please email Christine at clee@stpeterschelsea.org for more information.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS:

- **House Church.** Come anchor yourself in rhythms that give life. House Church is a space to come back to center: sharing a meal, praying with one another, and listening for God's voice together.
 - **Downtown (Chelsea), Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm.** Contact: clee@stpeterschelsea.org
 - **Uptown (UWS), Thursdays, 7-9 pm.** Contact: lisha@stpeterschelsea.org
- **Yoga + Noonday Prayer,** Wednesdays from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm, Rev. Lisha leads 30 minute yoga sessions in the sanctuary followed by Noonday Prayer. RSVP to lisha@stpeterschelsea.org.
- **Zoom Prayer,** Weekdays at 8 am. Start the morning with prayer, connection, and peace with the Episcopal Diocese of NY. Visit the Connect page on our website for the link.
- **Food Pantry,** Fridays from 4-6 pm or Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am. Join us to serve our neighbors in need. Sign up through the link on the food pantry page of our website.

**Please visit our website for a full list of our events and weekly gatherings:
www.stpeterschelsea.org/connect**

Cover art is "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" by Daphne Stephenson

The Reverend Christine Lee, *Rector* | The Reverend Lisha Epperson, *Associate Rector*
For more info, contact office@stpeterschelsea.org or visit www.stpeterschelsea.org | Contact our Vestry at vestry@stpeterschelsea.org