



## **The Second Sunday of Easter**

### **St. George's Day Celebration**

April 27, 2025

#### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **The Collect for St. George's Day**

Almighty God, you commissioned your holy martyr George to bear before the rulers of this world the banner of the cross: Strengthen us in our battles against the great serpent of sin and evil, that we too may attain the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **The First Lesson**

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and

forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## **Psalm 150**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!

**Praise him for his mighty deeds;**

**praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

**Praise him with tambourine and dance;**

**praise him with strings and pipe!**

Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!**

**Praise the Lord!**

## **The Second Lesson**

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him,  
and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### **The Gospel Lesson**

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Next week's readings**

Our readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, and we are using the NRSVUE translations. The readings for next week are:

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

## **Numbers last week:**

**Maundy Thursday, 7 pm** 56

**Good Friday, 12 pm** 10

**Good Friday, 4 pm** 13

**Good Friday, 7 pm** 49

**Holy Saturday, 9 am** 9

**Easter Vigil, 8 pm** 46

**Easter Sunday, 8 am** 19

**Easter Sunday, 9.15 am** 165

**Easter Sunday, 11 am** 120

## Important Upcoming Events

### Sunday, April 27

- St. George's Day Celebration

### Sunday, May 4

- Bowen Family Systems Theory, after 10 am service;
- Supper Church, 4.30 pm

### Wednesdays: May 7; May 28; June 11; June 25; & July 16, 7.30 pm.

- How to research your family genealogy

### Saturday, May 10

- Sages of All Ages trip to the Loantaka Wolf Preserve, 10.30 am

### Sunday, May 18

- Evening Prayer with Calvary, Summit, 5.00 pm

### Celebrate St. George's Day today!

St. George is England's patron saint, though he never visited England, never slayed a dragon, and is believed to be Turkish. His ideals of bravery and loyalty to Christianity led King Edward III to name him the country's patron saint. The day of his martyrdom, April 23, is celebrated as St. George's Day in many places throughout the world. BBC Teach has a video here:



We have lots of activities planned for all ages!

Everyone is welcome to come to the parish hall and get food before choosing one of several adventures: matching keys, putting together a puzzle, assembling cranes to decorate the church, or play in our bouncy house. Everyone is also invited to take pictures, share them on social media #SGD2025, and email them to parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org

## **How does our family history shape us?**

In parallel with Reverend Grant's sabbatical journey, the Sabbatical Committee invites you to explore your family history through two unique and related learning opportunities. The first: On **Sunday, May 4th, after the 10 am service**, our own Cheryl Notari will provide an in-person session on Bowen Family Systems Theory, to help us understand how we are shaped by our family history.

All are welcome to attend.

## **How to research your own family history**

The second program related to family history is an online workshop series led by genealogy expert, Rev. Susie Harding (a deacon from the Diocese of Virginia), to learn how to do genealogical research on your own family. Thanks to a Diocesan grant related to Rev. Grant's sabbatical, Rev. Susie will teach us on how to research our family background, then support us with discussions to help us understand how our family history may challenge and inform our identity and our life journey. There will be assignments between sessions to conduct our own research. Online sessions will begin at 7:30 pm and run for 60-90 minutes each, on the following **Wednesdays: May 7; May 28; June 11; June 25; and July 16.**

Those pursuing the genealogy workshops with Rev. Susie are encouraged to attend the May 4th session. Please sign up here (by May 2nd) to receive the Zoom link for the sessions: [bit.ly/StG-Gen](https://bit.ly/StG-Gen) or you may scan the QR code.



## **Weekly Action for Justice**

JAM invites you to call or write your U.S. Senators to insist that they block the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, S.128, which passed the House and represents a huge threat to voting rights. The SAVE Act would require voters to present "citizenship documentation" to register to vote - specifically passports or birth certificates. This would undermine mail-in or online voter registration, penalize the homebound, and jeopardize the rights of those who have changed their name or their gender. Read more here: <https://bit.ly/safeguard-voting>. THIS WEEK: Call your Senators (202-224-3121) or send a personalized message via the same link.

## **Monthly Food Pantry Collection**

In the month of April, we are directing our collection to the food pantry at St. Joseph's. We always welcome **regular sized, non-perishable donations**. Drop off donations in the Narthex food barrel or in the storage container in the vestibule off the parking lot. Your donations make a great deal of difference to our hungry neighbors.

## **An honest look at St. George's history**

A group is forming to engage in an examination of St. George's history, to better understand how we came to be what we are today and what we intend to be in the future. This parallels Rev. Grant's sabbatical focus, and we hope to place it in the context of Maplewood's history, examining questions of race, sexuality, class, and other elements. We need a team of history-interested folks who can assist in organizing and cataloging old documents, then exploring both what is evident - and what is missing - to look honestly at our history, draw lessons, and consider the implications for our future. This is a long-term project, but we'd like to launch it in April. Contact Valyrie Laedlein, [vklaed@gmail.com](mailto:vklaed@gmail.com), if you might be interested in helping with the effort.

## **Sages of All Ages – The Lakota Wolf Preserve**

Join the Sages of All Ages for an educational tour of the Lakota Wolf Preserve in Columbia, Warren County, New Jersey, on Saturday, May 10. The tour starts at 10:30am and we are planning to car pool from St. George's at 9:30am, if you don't want to drive yourself.

The tour is approximately 75 minutes and held rain or shine. Dress comfortably and appropriately for the hiking paths. Open-backed shoes are not permitted.

The cost is \$16 for adults and \$7 for kids under 11 years of age. Registration is needed by Wednesday, April 23. To reserve a spot or if any questions, contact Michael Francaviglia at [michaelfrancaviglia@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfrancaviglia@gmail.com). For more information, see your Snapshot email or <https://stgeorges-maplewood.org/bulletin-announcements/>

## **An Evening of Psalms**

Join us on **Sunday, May 18 at 5.00 pm** for a collaborative Service of Evening Prayer, featuring the choirs and organists of St. George's, Maplewood, and Calvary Episcopal Church. The service will feature Leonard Bernstein's profound Chichester Psalms. It will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit.

## **Altar Flower Tributes - Say it with flowers!**



Schedule your altar flower tributes in thanksgiving for, or in memory of a loved one by scanning the QR code. Payments can be made online, details are included on the signup form.



## **Diocese of Newark 150th Anniversary Concert**

**Friday, May 16, 2025m 6:00 pm**

The Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee and diocesan music ministers are planning a concert to take place at Christ Church, Short Hills. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will attend.

Schedule for the evening:

- 6 PM Reception – With light refreshments
- 7 PM Concert – An array of music, plus information about the diocese’s past, present and future
- 8:30 PM Youth & Young Adults After Party – A chance for members 8th grade through early 30s to greet the Presiding Bishop

## **Worship Service with Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe**

To close out the Diocese of Newark’s 150th Anniversary “year of celebration,” a worship service is being planned to take place at **St. Peter’s Morristown on May 17, 2025 at 10:30 AM.**

Bishop Hughes will be the celebrant at this service of Holy Eucharist. The preacher will be Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. A reception with light refreshments will follow the service.

## **Stay Connected with St. George's!**

Are you new to the parish? Are you excited to learn about the amazing ministries and activities happening at St. George's? Be sure to sign up for our weekly online newsletter so you don't miss out! To sign up, please email our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, at [parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org).

## **Stay Connected with the Diocese of Newark!**

As a part of the Diocese of Newark, St. George's contributes to and participates in the larger mission of our diocese— *Join us in following Jesus Christ with bold acts of justice, peace, and love.* Sign up to receive The VOICE Online (our diocesan digital newsletter) and check out the amazing things going on in our Diocese.



## **In Our Prayers this week**

Rich; Richard & Bea Berggren; Marlene Eubanks; Marianne Dwyer; James & Mary Ip; Mandy Robinson; Rita Paolillo; Andrea; Annette; Robert Oliphant & spouse Kathy Jo Blaske; Lauren; Chris Tietjen; Arlo; Sue; Anne & for Bonnie, her siblings, & families; the soul of Carol Carlin & her family; Carolyn & her family; Hugo & his family; Craig Henderson; Edith; the soul of Glen Jubilee & family; Jane Ungaro; Clarence Clarke & Andrew; Mary & Doug Franklin; the souls of Tony & Anthony Persichetti & for the family; Trevor Wilson; for the soul of Laurie Pierson; for the soul of Charlene Paolillo-Vaughan & for her family; Margo Hill; Lenny Paolillo; James; the soul of Jillian Hamer's father, & for the Hamer family; Linda Perrot.

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to [st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com](mailto:st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com). Include the name or names (preferably both first & last) and what we should be praying for. NOTE: After one month names are routinely removed from the list unless we receive a request to continue the prayer.

