

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

The Collect of the Day

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.*

The First Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

**Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me¹for anything, I will do it.

Next week’s readings

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

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Numbers last week

Sunday 10.00 am: 106

Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, May 3, 10

- ‘For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional’ Conversation

Thursday, May 7

- Sages of All Ages trip to Turtle Back Zoo

Sunday, May 17

- Boost Conversation
- Love Unfolding - A Service celebrating God’s Unending Love

For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional

How do we find grounding, hope, and a sense of purpose in life today? You are warmly invited to a special series of devotional conversations centered on “For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional” by Hanna Reichel.

Whether you’re seeking a moment of peace or a space for honest reflection, these gatherings offer a chance to dig deep into faith during uncertain times.

The group meets in the Mary Lounge from 9AM - 9.45AM on May 3 & 10.

Come as you are, ask your questions, and let’s explore what it means to live faithfully today.

See your Snapshot email or contact the office for copies of the Devotional.

JAM's Weekly Action for Justice

This Saturday, 5/2, will be another **protest at Citizens Bank**, at South Orange Ave & Scotland Rd, 10-11 am, (repeating the 1st & 3rd Saturdays, each month). Citizens Bank finances (and profits from) GEO Group and CoreCivic, prison companies that build and operate ICE detention camps, including Delaney Hall. To register & for sample sign slogans and more details, go to https://bit.ly/STOP_Citizens or the QR code:



And don't forget: **South Orange River Day** is Sunday, May 3rd, 11am-2pm, including tons of family-friendly activities, plus a community clean-up the Rahway River: <https://bit.ly/SO-River-Day>.

AND our **Wildflower walk** will be on Saturday, May 9th, 1 pm. Sign up here to receive details: <https://bit.ly/JAM4May>

BOOST Conversation on Neurodiversity, May 17

Join us on Sunday, May 17 during coffee hour for a special conversation facilitated by a leader from BOOST, a diocesan task force in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark dedicated to supporting neurodiverse individuals and their families. BOOST works to raise awareness, foster advocacy, and help our churches become more welcoming, inclusive communities where all people feel valued and supported.

This conversation will focus on how St. George's is already embracing the neurodiverse community—and how we might continue to grow. Together, we'll listen, learn from the experiences of others, and explore new ways to expand our practices of hospitality and inclusion.

All are welcome to join this important and hope-filled conversation.

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

In the month of May we are directing our collection to the food pantry at Holy Trinity Church. They are asking for donations of **Ramen and Pasta**. They 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. **Food insecurity remains critical! Please pick up a few extra supplies when you go to the store.**

Love Unfolding: A Service Celebrating God's Unending Love

Join us for Love Unfolding: A Service Celebrating God's Unending Love, a special choral event bringing together the choirs of Morrow Memorial Methodist Church and St. George's Episcopal Church for an evening of sacred music by queer composers past and present.

Past and present, queer musicians and artists have shaped the landscape of Christian sacred music in profound and lasting ways. This collaborative service lifts up those contributions, celebrating the breadth and beauty of God's love as expressed through their artistry. All proceeds from the offering at this service will go to Sam and Devorah Foundation for Trans Youth.

Sunday, May 17 • 5:00 p.m.

St. George's Episcopal Church, Maplewood

All are welcome.

Support the St. Cecilia Music Fund

At St. George's, music is one of the central languages of worship. The St. Cecilia Fund is an endowment dedicated to restoring our section leader program, bringing professional singers into our choir as mentors and musical anchors. Section leaders provide the consistency and skilled leadership that allow a volunteer choir to grow, take on more challenging and diverse repertoire, and welcome new singers with confidence. For a congregation that is itself growing and welcoming

new families, investing in music is investing in the welcome we extend to everyone who walks through our doors. Generous gifts have laid the foundation, and the Music Guild is committed to growing the fund faithfully over time so that this program can be sustained year after year. Every contribution, large or small, brings us closer to sacred music that can lift our hearts more fully toward the glory of God. Scan the QR code, or go to <https://bit.ly/StCeciliaMusicFund> to give.



Sages of all Ages Trip to Turtleback Zoo

Thursday, May 7, 10.30 am

The next Sages of All Ages outing is a trip to the Turtleback Zoo. Meet at the ticket office at 10.30am. All are welcome to join! Contact Tony Bousanti for more information.

Help Host Coffee Hour!

We're inviting every St. Georgian to host at least one Coffee Hour each year!

Please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/CoffeeHourNov-Jun> or scan the QR code.



We're also seeking:

- **Coffee Hour Hospitality Team:** A small team (5 ideally) is forming to maintain the online signup and send reminder emails. Interested? Email Mark Popham at markpopham@gmail.com.
- **Coffee Hour Baking Team:** Love to bake? Share your delicious gifts by preparing occasional treats for Coffee Hour through a fun quarterly baking party here at St. George's! Interested? Email Tina Kelly at tinakelleywriter@gmail.com

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.



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, 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. It includes a link to The VOICE Digest, a printable PDF of VOICE highlights, to share with parishioners who are not online.



In Our Prayers this week

Rita Paolillo; Craig Henderson; Sarah Ligon & her family; Jeff Hou & his family; Doug Sterner; Rev. Craig Burlington; Rev. Robert Morris; Meredith Borrelli; for the soul of Deborah Blue & for her family; Michael Mankowski; Stacy, Kashna, & Everett; Candy & Borin; the soul of Thomas Notari & his family; the soul of Ann Maxwell Grant & her family; the soul of Kevin Sparks & his family; Katelynn Smalley; for the soul of Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett & her family & friends; Raymond Cabrera; Joan Hoffs

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to 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.