

**Saint George's
Episcopal Church**
Milford, Michigan
www.stgeorgesmilford.org

*God Loves You.
No Exceptions!*



5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
Holy Communion, Rite II
at 10:15 a.m.

The Rev. Michelle Werner
Rector

Mr. John Potter
Music Minister

In Person and Live-streamed

Prelude

Let us break bread together

Trad. American Spiritual, Arr. Dale Wood
Music - Arr. ©1974 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

The Word of God

The people stand as comfortable

Processional Hymn: H-82 #191 *Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heaven-ward raise* P.D.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant 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.**

Song of Praise H-82 #49 *Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise* Charles Wesley, *Sussex Carol* P.D.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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.**

All may be seated for the lessons.

First Lesson | Acts 7: 55-60

The Stoning of Stephen

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 7, beginning at the 55th verse

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen 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 the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter | Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

I Seek My Refuge in You, Lord

Music - H-82 #579 P.D.

Words - Marie J. Post ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

1. **I seek my ref-uge in you, LORD; then let me not be put to shame.
LORD, lis-ten to my anx-ious cries for help that nev-er seems to come.
Be my strong rock to shelter me, a ref-uge to which I can flee.**
2. **You are my rock and for-tress, LORD: lead me in all my trou-bled ways.
A-lert me, LORD, to hid-den traps; safe-guard-ed I shall spend my days.
My spir-it, LORD, I now com-mend in-to your gra-cious, sav-ing hand.**
5. **I trust in you: you are my God. My times are in your gra-cious hand.
LORD, shine your face on me in love; keep me from shame. By your com-mand
Put wick-ed li-ars all to shame, who slan-der those that bear your name.**

Epistle | 1 Peter 2: 2-10

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

A reading from The First Letter of Peter, chapter 2 beginning at the second verse.

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." To you then who believe, he is precious; 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 race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts 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 Holy Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as comfortable

Sequence Hymn H-82 #487

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Vss. 1 & 2

Words and Music - Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Herbert © Oregon Catholic Press

Holy Gospel | John 14: 1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

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

Jesus said, "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 me 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 me for anything, I will do it.”

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

Sequence Hymn H-82 #487

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Vs. 3

The Sermon

The Rev. Michelle Werner

The people stand as comfortable

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.**

The Prayers of the People

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! We proclaim the good news of our salvation as we pray for all who seek to hear.

Risen Lord, we give thanks to you as we leave the tomb with fear and great joy. We pray for all who share in your joy this week, for those celebrating birthday & those celebrating anniversaries, reunions or other special events. Inspire us to rejoice with acts of love.

Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ, who stands among us, we have seen the marks of your saving love. We pray for those in danger and for countries torn by conflict especially Ukraine, Israel/Palestine and Iran. Breathe on us with the power of your Spirit and send us out to share the peace of Christ so that all the world may dwell in safety. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Living God, we are so slow to recognize your presence, even when you stand among us. Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread. We pray for your holy church especially Sara, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Bonnie our Bishop, for Michelle our Priest, for the clergy and people of *Emmaus in Walled Lake, St. David's in Southfield & St. George's in Azua, DR.* and all the people of God, let our hearts burn within us to share the good news that Jesus Christ our Savior is risen indeed. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Divine Shepherd, you call us by name. We pray for our national leaders and all in positions of authority and trust. Lead us, by your Word, in paths of righteousness, that all may have life, and have it abundantly. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, our eternal dwelling place, you prepare a home for us in glory. We pray for the sick, the lonely and the suffering. Visit those with troubled hearts especially *Annie F., Barry, Brett & Megan & Joshua, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Denise, Dot V., Eric, Fred K., Helen, Janine C., Jeanne, Jim, Joan B., John E., Judi V., Katie M., Karen S., Kim, Leon, Lisa D., Lisa S., MaryLou, Matt, Michael B., Michelle M., Michelle R., Mike W., Nancy B., Natalie C., Olivia S., Rebecca, Rick, the Sera Family, Sharon A., Sue H., Theresa A.,* and those we name before you now either silently or aloud...; show them the way to everlasting life. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, in Christ, your beloved Son, you have never abandoned us. You are a father to the fatherless, and a mother to the motherless. We pray for the homeless, refugees and all who are displaced. Come and live in us, through Christ, and inspire us to acts of justice and service, so that we may keep his commandments of love. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, you sent Jesus Christ so that we might know your glory and receive the gift of eternal life. We pray for those who have gone before us especially those we name before you now either silently or aloud ...; By the inspiration of their holy witness, keep us ever faithful to your Word as we live and work in your world so that all may be one in your love.

Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty, and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Let us greet one another with signs of the Peace of Jesus!

Welcome and Parish Announcements *(see last page)*

The Holy Communion

Offering

Let us offer unto God that which is God's, a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Offertory Anthem

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Music - P.D.

Words - John Bell ©1988 Iona Community / WGRG (North America)

The Choir

Doxology *The people stand as comfortable* to the tune of *Lasst uns erfreuen H-82 #400 P.D.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, alleluia, allelu - - - ia! Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Enriching Our Worship I

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus *sung by all* H-82 #S-130 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

setting by Franz Peter Schubert

arr. Richard Proulx ©1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,(repeat)

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Mystery of Faith *sung by all*

Franz Peter Schubert

Music - Arr. Richard T. Proulx ©1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed George and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

The Great Amen *sung by all*

Franz Peter Schubert

Music - Arr. Richard T. Proulx ©1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 (*silence follows*)

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Fraction Anthem *Agnus Dei*, sung by all H-82 #S-164

setting by Franz Peter Schubert

arr. Richard Proulx ©1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the people of God. God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

The Communion

All who seek the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Communion are welcome. Please come forward to receive the bread (wafer), and if desired to intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine. We are not yet sipping from the Cup. You may request a blessing instead, by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please ask the priest. She will gladly bring Communion to anyone not able to come forward.

Communion Hymn H-82 #182

Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing!

Music - P.D.

Words - Brian Wren ©1975 Hope Publishing Company

Post-Communion Prayer, *standing as comfortable*

Let us pray:

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn H-82 #525

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Dismissal: Alleluia! Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Sinfonies De Fanfares: Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret

Music - Arr. Elaine C. Gardiner ©1974 H W Gray

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Announcements – May 3, 2026

- ★ **Welcome to St George’s Church!** Our Worship schedule includes Services at 08:30am and 10:15am in the Church. Both services will be live-streamed to our YouTube channel (accessible from our website and our Facebook page) in each month according to the following pattern:
1st Sunday - 08:30 am Rite I Service 2nd/3rd/4th/(5th) Sundays - 10:15 am Rite II Service.
- ★ **Healing Prayer will be offered at both services on May 3 & 26.** Healing prayer is always available upon request.
- ★ **Spring Textile Drive** - we are collecting old, stained or damaged clothing, sheets, bedding, purses or other textiles to be recycled. Take a special pink bag and a flyer from the Narthex and return items by the end of May.
- ★ **Church Clean up Day Saturday May 9 9:00am-1:00pm** - Projects will be available inside and outside the church for people of all physical abilities. Back up date in case of rain is May 23.
- ★ **Outreach Committee Meeting Thursday May 7 at 1:00pm (new time) in the Fellowship Hall.**
- ★ **ECW Meeting Tuesday May 10 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.**
- ★ **Worship Committee Meeting May 13 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**
- ★ **Altar Flower sign-up for 2025 is available in the narthex. Please sign up now.**