

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Easter Season

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

FEAST OF JOHN XXIII (ANGELO GIUSEPPE RONCALLI)

9:30 am Wednesday, 4 June 2025

[From Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Born in Northern Italy in 1881, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was trained in Roman Catholic schools from an early age. After service in the military, Roncalli was ordained as a priest in 1904. His passion for social justice for working people and for the poor was formed early and remained an important commitment of his ministry.

Roncalli often received complicated assignments. He was made an archbishop in 1925 and sent as the papal envoy to Bulgaria, where he was responsible for reducing the tensions between Eastern Rite and Latin Rite Catholics during a difficult period. Some years later, he was the papal representative to Greece and Turkey when anti-religious sentiments were running high. His leadership in Turkey anticipated on a local scale some of the developments of later decades on a universal scale: putting the liturgy and the official documents of the church in the language of the people, and opening conversations with

[Continued Pg 11](#)

SALUTATION:

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Presider: 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 you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA —

#S-278

**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:

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray

All: God of all truth and peace, who raised up your bishop John to be servant of the servants of God and bestowed on him wisdom to call for the work of renewing your church: Grant that, following his example, we may reach out to other Christians in the love of your Son, and labor throughout the nations of the world to kindle a desire for justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Numbers (11:10-17):

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,’ to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

The PSALM:

Psalm 50:1-6 (read in unison)

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.**
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.**
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge. People of the God of Abraham.**

Second Lesson: A Reading from the Book of 1 Peter (5:1-4):

As an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Lesson: *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (5:36-39):**

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, ‘The old is good.’”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord **People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily

Nicene Creed: *Traditional Version (Said aloud by all, in unison)*

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the beauty of the earth:

**People: in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space,
Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the tenderness of touch

People: in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude, Alleluia

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the creative possibility

**People: of the hardest conversation, of the dreariest task, of the most
threatening event, Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - to offer re-creation

**People: to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged
Heart, Alleluia.**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive – to give us encouragement

**People: to face our fears, to wrestle with our doubts, to overcome our
disappointments, Alleluia.**

Leader: You set before us a great choice, death in our souls without you or Life
abundantly and eternally with you.

People: Therefore, we choose life.

Leader: The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation,

**People: This is your grace through which we live. So let us live fully and
thankfully. Alleluia.**

The Peace:

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you The Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and
sacrifice to God.

Doxology #380 vs. 3

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

The Holy Communion - *The Great Thanksgiving* *BCP Rite 2A*

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them to the Lord**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider:

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 Pascal 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus -

#S-128

***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.

Presider continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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 *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*

Fraction Anthem : Hymnal 1982 #S-155



Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and we use real wine. To receive by intincting/dipping your bread into the wine, please use the left altar rail. To receive by eating the bread and taking a sip of wine from the cup, please use the right altar rail. You may receive only the bread if you prefer. If you are not ready to take communion with us today, you may also come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Post Communion Prayer (*The people stand as they are able.*)

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and ever-living 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.

Blessing

Presider: 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, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

[Continued from front:](#)

Orthodox Christians and those of other faiths.

While serving as the papal nuncio in Turkey, Roncalli actively aided Jews fleeing Nazi persecution and encouraged priests under him to do the same. Near the end of the Second World War, he was made the papal nuncio to Paris with the task of trying to heal the divisions caused by the war. In 1953, at the age of 72, he was made a cardinal and appointed patriarch of Venice, the first time he had ever been the bishop ordinary of a diocese.

In 1958, Cardinal Roncalli was elected Pope and took the name John XXIII. After the long pontificate of Pius XII, it was widely assumed that John XXIII would be a brief “placeholder” pope of minor consequence. During the first year of his pontificate, however, he called the Second Vatican Council for the purpose of renewing and revitalizing the church. The work of the Council transformed the church of the twentieth century, not only for Roman Catholics, but for all Christians.

With its emphasis on liturgical renewal, ecumenism, world peace, and social justice, the legacy of the Council continues to inspire the mission of the church among Christians of all traditions.

John XXIII died on June 3, 1963.

[More From Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

[Pope John XXIII](#)^[a] (born **Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli**,^[b] 251881– 3 June 1963) was head of the [Catholic Church](#) and sovereign of the [Vatican City State](#) from 28 October 1958 until his death on 3 June 1963. He is the most recent pope to take the [pontifical name](#) "John".

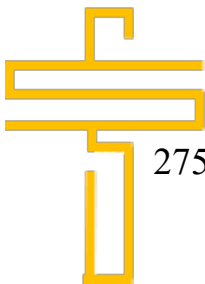
Roncalli was among 13 children born to Marianna Mazzola and Giovanni Battista Roncalli in a family of [sharecroppers](#) who lived in [Sotto il Monte](#), a village in the [province of Bergamo](#), [Lombardy](#).^[8] He was ordained to the [priesthood](#) on 10 August 1904 and served in a number of posts, as [nuncio](#) in [France](#) and a delegate to [Bulgaria](#), [Greece](#) and [Turkey](#). In a [consistory](#) on 12 January 1953 [Pope Pius XII](#) made Roncalli a cardinal as the Cardinal-priest of [Santa Prisca](#) in addition to naming him as the [Patriarch of Venice](#). Roncalli was unexpectedly elected [pope](#) on 28 October 1958 at age 76 after [Pope Pius XII](#)'s death. Pope John XXIII surprised those who expected him to be a caretaker pope by calling the historic [Second Vatican Council](#) (1962–1965), the first session opening on 11 1962, which is now his [feast](#).

John XXIII made many passionate speeches during his pontificate. His views on equality were summed up in his statement, "We were all made in God's image, and thus, we are all Godly alike."^{[9][10]} He made a major impact on the Catholic Church, opening it up to the changes of the Second Vatican Council and by his own dealings with other churches and nations. In Italian politics, he prohibited bishops from interfering with local elections, and he helped the [Christian Democracy](#) party to cooperate with the [Italian Socialist Party](#). In international affairs, his [Ostpolitik](#) engaged in dialogue with the communist countries of Eastern Europe. He especially reached out to the [Eastern Orthodox churches](#).

His overall goal was to modernize the Church by emphasizing its [pastoral role](#), and its necessary involvement with affairs of state. He dropped the traditional rule of 70 cardinals, increasing the size to 85. He used the opportunity to name the first cardinals from Africa, Japan, and the Philippines. He promoted [ecumenical](#) movements in cooperation with other Christian faiths. In doctrinal matters, he was a traditionalist, but he ended the practice of automatically formulating social and political policies on the basis of old theological propositions.^[11]

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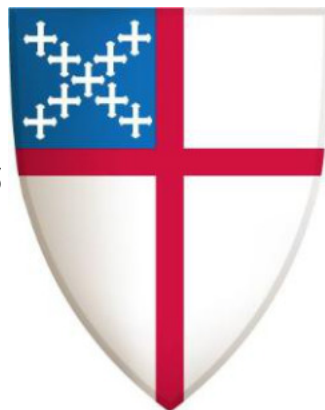
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Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



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