

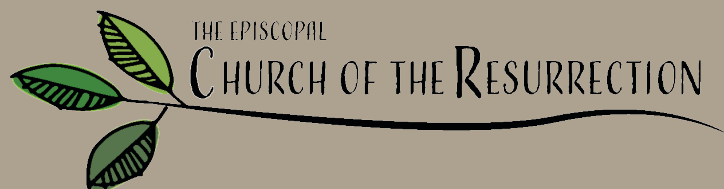


SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

JUNE 22, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865-986-2390

www.episcopalloudon.com
#episcopalloudon



GOOD MORNING!

GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A Hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-278 is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com, email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:
facebook.com/episcopalloudon.



Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude *(only at 10:30)*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(L. Beethoven

Entrance Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

Praise to the living God

Hymnal 372

All standing

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

All **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.**

The Gloria *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

Hymnal 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.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:1-4,5-7, 8-15a

Lector A reading from the Book of Kings

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalms 42 & 43

Lector We will read the Psalms responsively by half verse.

Psalm 42

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**
- 8 My soul is heavy within me; *
**therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.**
- 9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.
- 10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *
in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
- 11 I will say to the God of my strength, “Why have you forgotten me? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?”
- 12 While my bones are being broken, *
my enemies mock me to my face;
- 13 All day long they mock me *
and say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

- 1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

The Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-29

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

'Tis the gift to be simple (sing the verse twice)

Hymnal 554

All stand

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 8:26-39

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he

had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me” — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

Sequence Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

‘Tis the gift to be simple (sing the verse once)

Hymnal 554

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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, Form II

BCP 385

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able.
Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or
aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.*

Lector:

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Sean;
our Diocesan Bishop, Brian; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison,
especially **Ginny; Rosemary O.; the LaPointe family; Shelly; Tenia; Kathleen; Jim;
Daphne; Jenon; Aaron; Sarah; Killian; and all your children who suffer the effects of
war, oppression, or natural disasters.**
Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.
Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

Celebrant

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.

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

Please note: Continuing in a posture of prayer we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of confession.

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Peace

Standing as you are able.

BCP 360

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

Offertory Anthem (*sung by the choir*)
As we gather at your table

WLP 763

The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.

Doxology (*only at 10:30*)
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.

Spoken at 8:00 and 10:30

1 Chronicles 29:14

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord;
People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

*From Enriching Our Worship, The Standing Liturgical Commission of
the Episcopal Church: New York: Church Publishing, 1997*

Sursum Corda (Lift up your Hearts)
(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

Hymnal S-120

Celebrant The Lord be with you,
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and

knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Sanctus (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-125

**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.

Celebrant 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant 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 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. **AMEN.** (*spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

And now, 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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Hymn *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

Hymnal S-161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Ye Servants of God, your Master Proclaim

Hymnal 535

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

Post communion Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

Where charity and love prevail

Hymnal 581

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *(only at 10:30)*

Hornpipe

(G. F. Handel)

Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

**Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and in celebration of our 31st anniversary
by Donna & Carl Bye**

4 PAWS

Today is the fourth Sunday of the month so it is Four Paws Pantry collection Sunday. Cat and dog food - or donations to purchase the same - are most appreciated. Please see Jackie Curtiss if you have questions.

Daughters of the King

DOK will meet next week, on Saturday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Many thanks to our Monday office volunteers!

Thanks so much to Donna Bye and Mark Hennes who have volunteered to cover all the Mondays in July. If you have an available Monday in August when you can help out, please let Bonnie know so that these two can get a break!

Please note:

**Regular church office hours are weekdays
10am-2 pm, EXCEPT for Thursdays.**

Our Parish Prayer List

Ginny; Rosemary O.; the LaPointe family;
Shelly; Tenia; Kathleen; Jim;
Daphne; Jenon; Aaron; Sarah; Killian

Continuing Prayers for:

the Hentchel family; Pat; Claire; Sandy;
Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane; Shannon; Jim; Mel;
Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean;
Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne;
Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

For our Vestry leaders:

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.
Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L.
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.
Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

Also for the Diocesan Prayer List:

For the Oppressed, BCP 826
For Monastic Orders and Vocations, BCP 819

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 7	Holly & David Pate
June 8	Kim Strong
June 10	Judy Egan
June 10	Peggy Rogers
June 12	Drew Hawley
June 12	Bonnie & Mark Smith
June 13	Beth Stahr
June 15	Beverly & Bob Cantine
June 15	Kathy Pittman
June 16	Kim & Marc Strong
June 19	Judy Moyer
June 21	Keith Binkley
June 24	Tony Adams
June 25	Kathleen Bailey
June 25	Donna & Carl Bye
June 27	Danielle Ledyard

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

June 22	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Jack Lefler	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild: Janey Coombes & Judy Egan
EM	Judy Hadjian	Jane Mocilac	
Lectors	Holly Pate & Jack Lefler	Tony Adams & Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild: Bev Baumgardner
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Keytha Graves & Art Stewart	Organist: Judy Moyer
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart	Celebrant &: Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Linda Lefler	Virginia Perry	Monday Volunteer (6/23)
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Donna Bye
Counters	n/a	Monty Ross & Jenny Lucas	

NEXT WEEK

June 29	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Holly Pate	Dawson Hope	Altar Guild: Janey Coombes & Judy Egan
EM	Mark Hennes	Jackie Buttinelli	
Lectors	Jerry Ploeger & Mark Hennes	Monty Ross & Bill Perry	Flower Guild: Judy Hadjian
Ushers	Carl Bye	Andy Hadjian & Dave Baumgardner	Organist: Judy Moyer
Chancellor	Carl Bye	Jenny Lucas	Celebrant &: Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Donna Bye	Ginny Tolbert	Monday Volunteer (6/30)
Video	n/a	Mark Blakley	Donna Bye
Counters	n/a	Andy Hadjian & Jean Cardwell	

Next Week at Resurrection

Monday, June 23
7:00 p.m. - AA (open meeting)

Wednesday, June 25
9:00 a.m. - Deadline for Parish Tidings or bulletin submissions

Saturday, June 28
9:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King (Parish Hall)

Sunday, June 29
8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken, Rite II
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral, Rite II

Email office@episcopalloudon.com by Wednesday at 9 a.m. to have your ministry or committee's activities added to the parish calendar.

COMING UP ...

Friday, July 4
Office Closed - Independence Day

Sunday, July 6
Holy Eucharist, spoken, Rite II
Holy Eucharist, choral, Rite II

**Check your Parish Tidings
for upcoming details!**

Contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges,
at this email: rector@episcopalloudon.com.

TODAY'S ART



Elijah in the Wilderness (c. 1877-1878)

Frederic Leighton, British painter, draughtsman, & sculptor
(1830-1896)

Oil on Canvas

On display at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, England

Public domain

‘Elijah in the Wilderness’ is inspired by an episode from the Old Testament described in 1 Kings, chapter 19, verses 4 – 7. Elijah is fleeing from Jezebel who is determined to kill him. He went for a day’s journey into the desert, sat beneath a tree

and asked that he might die. In this painting, he is asleep in the wilderness and an angel from God is bringing him bread and water, to sustain him on his subsequent journey of forty days. The angel seems to have just landed. His splendid wings are still extended. The prophet, whose muscled body contrasts with the fluttering draperies of the angel, sleeps on as the angel looks down on him.

Although this picture did not arrive in Liverpool until 1879, after first being exhibited in Paris, it was specially commissioned for the Walker Art Gallery in the year that it opened, 1877. The man who responsible was the local wealthy chemical manufacturer Andrew Kurtz (1825 - 1890). He had decided that the Gallery should have a painting by the most celebrated and successful British painter of the late nineteenth century and so commissioned Frederic Leighton.

According to his diaries, Kurtz had wanted a picture from Leighton ‘...dealing with female beauty’ but he eventually left the subject for the Walker picture entirely for the artist to decide. Leighton wrote to tell him that the subject was to be the Angel feeding Elijah and that the figures were to be life-size, with the picture measuring 7 feet by 8 feet.

References

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/artifact/elijah-wilderness>
