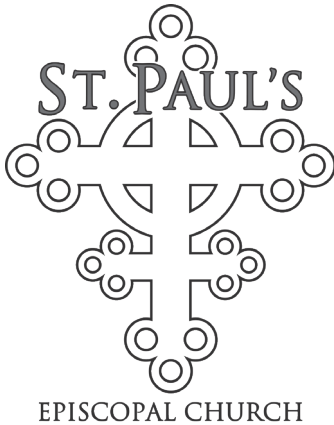




EVENING PRAYER
&
HOLY EUCHARIST
May 6, 2026

FEAST OF DADE JULIAN OF NORWICH
CONTEMPLATIVE



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DAME JULIAN OF NORWICH
CONTEMPLATIVE (8 MAY 1417)

The Lady Juliana was born about 1342, and when she was thirty years old, she became gravely ill and was expected to die. Then, on the seventh day, the medical crisis passed, and she had a series of fifteen visions, or “showings,” in which she was led to contemplate the Passion of Christ. These brought her great peace and joy. She became an anchoress, living in a small hut near to the church in Norwich, where she devoted the rest of her life to prayer and contemplation of the meaning of her visions. The results of her meditations she wrote in a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*, available in modern English in a Penguin Paperback edition. During her lifetime, she became known as a counselor, whose advice combined spiritual insight with common sense, and many persons came to speak with her. Since her death, many more have found help in her writings.

The precise date of her death is uncertain.

Her book is a tender meditation on God’s eternal and all-embracing love, as expressed to us in the Passion of Christ.

She describes seeing God holding a tiny thing in his hand, like a small brown nut, which seemed so fragile and insignificant that she wondered why it did not crumble before her eyes. She understood that the thing was the entire created universe, which is as nothing compared to its Creator, and she was told, “God made it, God loves it, God keeps it.”

She was concerned that sometimes when we are faced with a difficult moral decision, it seems that no matter which way we decide, we will have acted from motives that are less than completely pure, so that neither decision is defensible. She finally wrote: “It is enough to be sure of the deed. Our courteous Lord will deign to redeem the motive.”

A matter that greatly troubled her was the fate of those who through no fault of their own had never heard the Gospel. She never received a direct answer to her questions about them, except to be told that whatever God does is done in Love, and therefore “that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Speaking of her visions of heaven and hell, she said, “To me was shown no harder hell than sin.”

Of our response to the sins of others, she said (ch. 76): “The soul that would preserve its peace, when another’s sin is brought to mind, must fly from it as from the pains of hell, looking to God for help against it. To consider the sins of other people will produce a thick film over the eyes of our soul, and prevent us for the time being from seeing the ‘fair beauty of the

Lord'-- unless, that is, we look at them contrite along with the sinner, being sorry with and for him, and yearning over him for God. Without this it can only harm, disturb, and hinder the soul who considers them. I gathered all this from the revelation about compassion...This blessed friend is Jesus; it is his will and plan that we hang on to him, and hold tight always, in whatever circumstances; for whether we are filthy or clean is all the same to his love."

"Glad and merry and sweet is the blessed and lovely demeanour of our Lord towards our souls, for he saw us always living in love-longing, and he wants our souls to be gladly disposed toward him . . . by his grace he lifts up and will draw our outer disposition to our inward, and will make us all at unity with him, and each of us with others in the true, lasting joy which is Jesus."

-- Julian of Norwich

The following was translated by Liz Broadwell (ebroadwe@dept.english.upenn.edu)

And from the time that [the vision] was shown, I desired often to know what our Lord's meaning was. And fifteen years and more afterward I was answered in my spiritual understanding, thus: 'Would you know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Keep yourself therein and you shall know and understand more in the same. But you shall never know nor understand any other thing, forever.'

Thus I was taught that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw quite clearly in this and in all, that before God made us, he loved us, which love was never slaked nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his work, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us. And in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had a beginning. But the love wherein he made us was in him with no beginning. And all this shall be seen in God without end...

James Kiefer

Preparation

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Celebrant ✠ O God, make speed to save us.

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Celebrant In your resurrection, O Christ

People **Let heaven and earth rejoice.**

Blesséd are you, Sovereign Lord,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.

People **Blesséd be God for ever!**

from “Celebrating Common Prayer”

Priest Let us confess our sins to God.

Please kneel or stand as you are able

All **God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil,
for the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.*

Please be seated

Word

Silence is kept between the readings

Isaiah 49:13-18

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me.'
Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.
Your builders outdo your destroyers,
and those who laid you waste go away from you.
Lift up your eyes all around and see;
they all gather, they come to you.
As I live, says the Lord,
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

Matthew 23:37-39

'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

PRAYER

Please kneel or stand as you are able

On this day that the Lord has made, let us give God the glory and pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism may know the power of his resurrection:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those who suffer pain and anguish may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That in the undying love of Christ, we may have union with all who have died:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A Collect for Easter

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery has 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 the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

A Collect for Julian

Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. *Amen.*

Please stand

The Peace

Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken.

My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please stand

Eucharist

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.**

The Celebrant continues

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Celebrant and People

**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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden, the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Celebrant and People

We now obey your Son's command

We recall his blessed passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension;

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts

and with them ourselves a single, holy living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the ✠ fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Celebrant and People

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;**

may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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

A period of silence is kept

The Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Please kneel or stand as you are able

All **God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Dismissal

May this new night of rest
Repair the wear of time,
Restore your vision of a deeper light,
Heal the wounds of disappointments,
And restore youth of heart
For the adventure
That awaits you tomorrow. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
bless us and keep us. *Amen.*

✠ May the divine help remain with us always.

✠ **And with our absent brethren. Amen.**

