



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025, 10:30 A.M.
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE	<i>Allegro (Concerto in d minor)</i>	JS Bach after Vivaldi
	<i>Prelude on 'Morning Song'</i>	Sam Batt Owens

THE OPENING HYMN 423 *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord
 God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;
 glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you
 for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will
 praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your
 tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
 you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
 ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Descant
 5. Glo - ry to you, be -
 hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of
 depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to
 hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you,
 you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 8:18-9:1

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 79:1-9

Sung by the choir.

¹O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy temple; *

they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

²They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, *

and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.

³They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, * and there was no one to bury them.

⁴We have become a reproach to our neighbors, * an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

⁵How long will you be angry, O Lord? * will your fury blaze like fire for ever?

⁶Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you * and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.

⁷For they have devoured Jacob * and made his dwelling a ruin.

⁸Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us; * for we have been brought very low.

⁹Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; * deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name’s sake.

THE EPISTLE: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to Timothy.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 571 *All who love and serve your city*

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

The Celebrant and People say together

**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.**

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, and for those who serve in our local hospitals, care facilities, schools, colleges, and correctional facilities; for those who serve in law enforcement and in the legal system; and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric.
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; for our President Donald, our Governor Kay, and our Mayor Steven; for members of our state legislature, and our national representatives and senators, that there may be respectful and wise governance for the welfare of our nation and of the world; and for victims of violence and conflict, especially in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation, and an awareness and sense of gratitude for the beauty of the world around us;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, Duncan and Mark our priests, Mawande our deacon; for Stewart our seminarian, and for all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
 in your compassion forgive us our sins,
 known and unknown,
 things done and left undone;
 and so uphold us by your Spirit
 that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
 to the honor and glory of your Name;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.

THE OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

All stand to sing the offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel as able.

Celebrant 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

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

Celebrant and People

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance
 that Christ died for you and feed on him
 in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

*You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any
 Christian church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the
 altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.*

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.
 Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

THE AGNUS DEI

*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.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**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.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Go now, and continue to offer prayers and thanksgiving
 for everyone.
 Be shrewd in dealing with the world around you
 but do not be seduced into serving wealth.
 Weep for those who suffer
 and share faith and truth with all.
 And may God welcome you with love;
 May Christ Jesus give you knowledge of the truth;
 And may the Holy Spirit lead you into all godliness and dignity. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 436 *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates* *All stand.*

THE DISMISSAL

When the clergy have moved to the front door of the church, the Deacon then sings

Deacon
 Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia.

People
 Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Frederick Swann

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*
The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*
The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana, *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Altar Guild: Debbie Schremser & Chuck Moore

Lector and Intercessor: Natalie Snyder, Nick Prillaman

Eucharistic Ministers: Tracey Campbell, Bill Harlow

Ushers/Greeters: Chuck Ocheltree, Anne Hamner, Bill Johnson,
Liam McMullen

Flower Guild: Jeanne Drummond

Flower Delivery Team: Melissa Carter, Doris Ball, Linda Hutchinson

Videographer: Jim Cannon

Instrumentalists: Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson, *basoon*

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Elizabeth Hulit Baldwin,
John Avon & Marie Ambrose Buzard

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Nancy Buzard, Rosa Davis, Rick Durden, Dave Funk, Emily Crump Johannes,
Bill Marks, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald,
Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason,
Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Scott Simmons,
Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace

Prayers are also requested for these friends:

Emma Allshouse, Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Willie "Bill" Carden,
John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Stephanie Holmes, Charles Lewis, Leslie Little,
Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki, Madera Spenser,
Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Katherine Weidner, Frank Winkler, Sharon
Carney Wright

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

Pastoral Care Team for September: Emmi Harrell, Meri Moody,
Nancy Bradford, Mary Helen Mahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Speaker Series: AI & the Church

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. | Beginning Oct. 1 | Parish Hall

Join us Wednesday nights in October as we examine what effects Artificial Intelligence has on our faith and daily lives. St. John's welcomes Dr. Jim Locke, Executive Director of AI Research and Education at Troy University Montgomery. Dinner at 6, teaching & discussion at 6:30.

Calling All Crafters

Do you love to craft? The St. John's Arts and Crafts group is looking for handmade, unique items to be sold at this year's Bazaar. Whether you're into painting, woodworking, sewing, needlepoint, or ceramics, we'd love for you to share your talents with us. The Arts and Crafts group usually meets on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. We will not meet September 18 but will meet on September 23 and 25. Interested? Contact Murray Bennett at 334-430-8660 for more details.

St. John's Unveils New Mission Statement

Mission statements are living words that should help churches discern God's voice and leading. The vestry adopted our new mission statement at its meeting in July: *St. John's is a beacon in the heart of Montgomery, welcoming all into Christ's transforming love.* It is short, laser focused, and tells the city and state who we are and why we're here. It is an outward-looking mission statement. Beacons shine. They can be clearly seen – for many miles. They give comfort and hope. They communicate Good News.

New Rector's Forum: "Scrolling Ourselves to Death"

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. | Beginning September 14 | St. John's Library

How is constant connectivity shaping our souls? Join us for a new Rector's Forum exploring the impact of technology, social media, and digital distraction on our spiritual lives.

STAY CONNECTED TO ST. JOHN'S

Breeze System Gives Access to Directory, Calendar, & Giving

St. John's has recently implemented a new system called Breeze for its giving, directory, calendar, website, and app. Parishioners received an invite via email to create an account. Information guides are printed and available in the church office or on the St. John's website. Please call the church office or email emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org for assistance. *Please note: Breeze is recommended for parishioners, but not required. Printed directories are available upon request.*

My STJ



St. John's e-Newsletter

The St. John's e-newsletter goes out every Tuesday at 6 p.m. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please email emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org to get added to the mailing list.

Visitor Card



Visitors, please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

stjohnsmontgomery.org

Visit our website to see service times, news from the parish, upcoming events, mission opportunities and more.



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's, our online giving portal makes it easier than ever. Your generosity supports our ministries in Montgomery and beyond.

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