



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025, 10:30 A.M.
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *Choral Preludes on "I Call to Thee"; "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" J.S. Bach*

THE OPENING HYMN 68 *Rejoice, rejoice believers*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355) *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.**

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal

One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,

Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have

mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS*All sit.*THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 2:1-5

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be

established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.**PSALM 122*Sung by the choir.*¹I was glad when they said to me, *

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

²Now our feet are standing *

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city *

that is at unity with itself;

⁴To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, *

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls *

and quietness within your towers.

⁸For my brethren and companions' sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God, *

I will seek to do you good."

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 596 *Judge eternal, throned in splendor*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

Remain standing.

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

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.

We pray today 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 all people in their daily life and work,

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

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 this community, the nation, and the world;

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

For an awareness and sense of gratitude for the beauty of the world around us;

For the just and proper use of your creation,

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, 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 especially _____.

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, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given:

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 ANTHEM	<i>O Jesus King Most Wonderful</i>	David
Hogan		

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.

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, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever, **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.**

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 (BCP p. 365)

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

Go now and let the Lord steer you in the way of truth.

Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up in the trivialities and anxieties of the world.

Be alert at all times and pray for strength

to escape the traps that would keep you from God.

And may God make you increase in love for one another;

May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;

and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness, as you ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 597 *O day of peace that dimly shines*

All stand.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Fugue: "To God on High Be Praise"

J. S. Bach

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*

The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Organist: Jim Conely

Acolytes: Eloise Carlisle, Will Evans Clark, Costa Cumuze, Burton Holmes

Altar Guild: Ashley Hamlett

Lector and Intercessor: Reg McLane, Ken Kline

Eucharistic Ministers: Callie Dietz, Bill Harlow

Ushers/Greeters: Keith Miller, Melissa Carter, Anne Hamner, Elizabeth Lawlor

Flower Guild: Jean Smyth, Sarah Spratling

Flower Delivery Team: Emmi Harrell, Tracey Campbell

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Emmie Taber Danzinger, John Kennedy Danziger, Audrey Portugill Danziger, John Kennedy Danziger, Jr., John Kennedy Danzinger, III, Rufus Middleton King, Rebecca Danzinger Snell, Hamner Garland Freeman, Jr., Cameron Brame Freeman, Hamner Garland Freeman III, John Hawkins Napier III, Enid Portugill, Cyril Portugill

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Dorothy Arrington, Ilouise Bradford, Renee Carlisle, Rick Durden, Dave Funk, Carolyn Fillmore, Emily Crump Johannes, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Debbie Steindorff, Jack Taylor, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Willie "Bill" Carden, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Leslie Little, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, 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 December: Betsy Cannon, Michelle Shaw, Josie Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Renee Taylor, Laura Knapp

Bazaar Updates

Many thanks to everyone who made this year's Bazaar a success! All proceeds this year are going to the Boys and Girls Club of the River Region. All remaining items in the Treasure Attic are now half off. Pantry food items are still available. Please call 334-262-1937 or email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org if you have questions.

Upcoming Concert

This afternoon at 5 p.m., Bishop Glenda Curry will host a program at St. John's at 5 p.m. to celebrate Rosa Parks Weekend and to honor the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. The program will feature Dr. Alcee Chriss III as organist performing music by black composers. Everyone is welcome.

Advent Wreath Decorating

Today after the 10:30 service, everyone is invited to come to the Parish Hall and collect materials to make their own Advent Wreath! Please note that there will be no luncheon this year.

Sunday School Class: Spiritual Expression

Part of Spiritual Expression is taking time to encourage ourselves to see more of who we are, what we believe God to be, and how God loves and guides us in our daily lives. You do not have to be an artist or even artistic in any way to participate in this brief introductory class. Each week will be a different example of one of the many ways to help engage your understanding of your creative expression and possibly help you connect on a deeper level to yourself and your relationship to God. Class will meet from 9:15 until 10:15 in the small dining room off the Parish Hall.

Grief Share Group Dec. 1

For those experiencing a loss, December can be painful. Death, separation, divorce, illness, family trauma, job loss, or moving to a new location result in great losses that make the holidays difficult. St. John's will be offering a nationally recognized grief support program called Grief Share on Dec. 1. Register at griefshare.org/events/276204 or email duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

Pledge Packets Out Now

Pledge packets were mailed out during the month of October. If you didn't receive yours and would like to, you can either:

1. Email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org and let us know so we can mail you one
 2. Call us at 334-262-1937 to request a packet
- or
3. Pick up a pledge packet in the church office, parish hall, or front of the sanctuary

All pledge materials are also available by visiting

stjohnsmontgomery.org/pages/2025-pledge-packets

Many thanks for your continued generosity and dedication 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 and giving statements are available upon request.*

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.

If you are not receiving emails from the church office, please scan this QR code or call 334-262-1937.

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, Bishop of Alabama
The Right Reverend Brian N. Prior, Assisting Bishop
The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, Rector
The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr. Associate Rector
Joel Gregory, Organist & Choirmaster
Sarah Collier, Director of Children's Christian Formation
J.R. Marshall, Director of Youth Ministries
Emily Howard, Director of Communications
Constance Rodgers, Assistant to the Rector
Myron Smoke, Maintenance Superintendent

Vestry and Officers

Keith Miller, Senior Warden
Bill Eskridge, Junior Warden
Richard Bradford, Treasurer

Class of 2025: Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell, Anne Hamner,
Keith Miller, Allison Prillaman

Class of 2026: Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchell,
Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

Class of 2027: Richard Anderson, Jon Dailey, Bill Johnson,
Jim Marshall III, Florence Tyson, Karen Westhauser



We're glad you are at St. John's today.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or attending regularly,
you are a part of the St. John's family.

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.

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

stjohnsmontgomery.org



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.

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