

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The celebrant offers the following sentence

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

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.

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.**

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 12:1-4

All sit.

A Reading from Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

Sung by the choir.

- ¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help.
- ² My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
- ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
- ⁶ So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
- ⁸ The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 675 *Take up your cross, the Savior said*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

All stand.

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

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be

astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED (BCP P. 358)

All stand.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All kneel as able.

Celebrant

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, for Richard our Bishop-Elect, Duncan & Mark our priests, and for Stewart our seminarian.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. 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, and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially _____. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given, for _____; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

All sit.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Wash Me Thoroughly From My Wickedness* G. F. Handel

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

All stand as the offertory is brought up to the altar.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

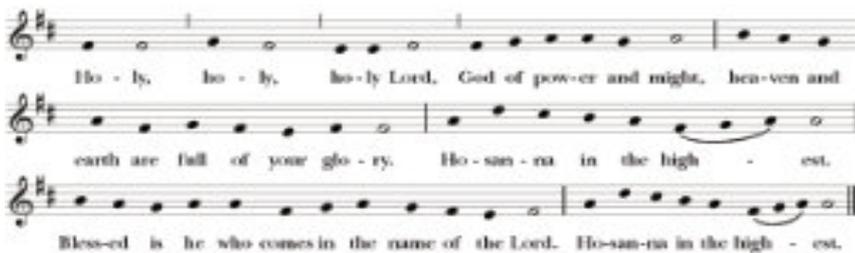
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:



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.

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 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 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 out into the world at the call of God.

Find your help in the Lord,

and allow the Spirit to carry you wherever she blows.

And may God shelter you from evil and keep you from stumbling;

May Christ Jesus secure your life in faith;

And may the Holy Spirit carry you on the winds of God's love. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 636 *How firm a foundation*

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fugue in g minor (The 'Little')* Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Organist: Joel Gregory

Acolytes: Nancy Bradford, John David Collier, Thomas Lawlor,
Margie Anne Prescott

Altar Guild: Josie Eskridge, Libby Beck

Lector and Intercessor: Ken Kline

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Harlow, JR Marshall, Maria Pacheco

Ushers/Greeters: Bill Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman,
Karen Westhauser

Flower Guild: Caroline Lawson, Laura McLemore

Flower Delivery Team: George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Sam Collier

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Mary Oliver McLemore, Andrew Jackson McLemore, William Oliver Rees, Thomas Oliver McLemore, Martha Thigpen McLemore, William Henry McLemore, Ruth Cook McLemore, Joy McGlynn McLemore, Andrew Jackson McLemore, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Carolyn Fillmore, Anne Hill, 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, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young, The Family of Vivian S. Homan, mother of Debbie Wakefield, upon her death

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Lizzy Dickens, David Earnest, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Serge Ruffato, Ron Skoneki, Johnny Smith, Madera Spencer, 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 March: Kitty Coleman, Mary Simmons, Mary Ward Wisnewski

Lenten Lunch Series: Encounters with Jesus

Join us for a Lenten Lunch Series at St. John's on Wednesdays during Lent at 12:05 p.m. Each week we will gather for midday prayer followed by a short message reflecting on Encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel—stories that invite us to slow down, listen, and notice how Christ meets people where they are. A simple soup lunch will be served for \$6 following the service. Come nourish your spirit and your body in the midst of the Lenten season.

Lenten Dinner Series: Lost for Words

Join us for a Lenten Dinner Teaching Series at St. John's beginning Wednesday, February 25, at 6 p.m. Each week, a full dinner will be served for donations, followed by a thoughtful teaching exploring a question many are asking: Why has the church lost relevance—and what can we do about it?

Over the five middle Wednesdays of Lent, Lost for Words will take an honest look at the causes of church decline in America and invite us into new ways of witnessing to Christ in our own time and place. Topics will include integrity, empathy, substance, cultural awareness, and discovering where God is already at work beyond church walls. Come for good food, meaningful conversation, and renewed hope for the church.

Journey Boat Workshop

On Wednesday, March 18, from 1:30–5 p.m. in the Parish Hall, join us for a creative and contemplative Journey Boat Workshop led by artist Camilla Armstrong. Using natural and found materials, participants will build a small “journey boat” as a way to reflect on where they are in their spiritual lives and how God is moving with them through the unpredictable currents of life. Come for the Lenten Lunch Series and stay for this unique afternoon of spiritual exploration. For more information, contact Camilla at 334-320-8269.

Living Well through Lent

You're invited to join a Lenten small group hosted by Marney Garzon, gathering weekly throughout Lent for prayerful reflection and conversation. The group begins Sunday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Marney's home, 2453 E. Cloverdale Park. Please park in the back and enter through the back door.

The group will use this year's Lenten devotional booklet as a guide. A PDF version is available on the St. John's website.

Join a Guild at St. John's

St. John's is blessed with many opportunities to serve, and we invite you to share your time and talents by joining one of our church guilds.

Guilds are at the heart of our parish life. They support our worship, care for our community, and help us live out Christ's call to love and serve.

Some of the Guilds and Committees in need of volunteers include:

- Altar Guild - contact Kitty Coleman or Chuck Moore
- Flower Guild - contact Jean Smyth
- Reception - contact Libby Beck
- Pastoral Care - contact Virginia Banister

No experience is required — training and guidance are provided. Whether you can serve occasionally or regularly, there is a place for you.

Feel free to contact the committee chair with any questions or you may contact Christine Kline by email at firefamily1991@gmail.com

Come serve. Come belong. Come grow in faith.

Education for Ministry Opportunity at St. John's

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year small-group formation program from the University of the South in Sewanee, designed for lay people seeking a deeper understanding of Scripture, church history, and theology, as well as those discerning a call to ordained ministry. The program includes two years of Bible study (Old and New Testaments), followed by church history and theology, with a strong emphasis on theological reflection and lived faith. An EfM seminar group is forming at St. John's for Fall 2026 with 8–10 participants. To learn more, visit efm.sewanee.edu or speak with the rector.

Giving statements now available

St. John's giving statements for 2025 are now available for pickup in the church office. Please look for the box labeled "2025 Giving Statements" and locate the envelope with your name on it.

Day by Day Devotionals

St. John's provides Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. Booklets are available in the Narthex, Parish Hall, and Church Office. Large print available upon request.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

The Right Rev. Glenda Curry, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Rev. Richard Lawson, *Bishop-elect*

ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, *Rector*

The Rev. 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

Bill Eskridge, *Senior Warden*

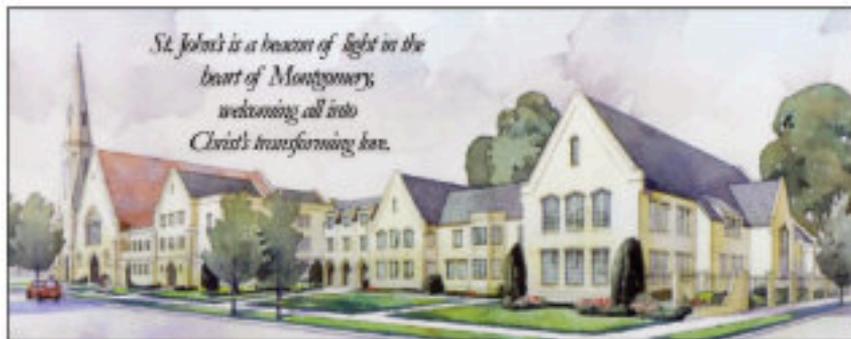
Florence Tyson, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

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, Karen Westhauser

Class of 2028: Libby Beck, Tracey Campbell, Sommerville Hill, Ken Kline, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman



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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