



SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026, 10:30 A.M.  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

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THE PRELUDE *Canzon* Girolamo Frescobaldi

THE OPENING HYMN 428 *O all ye works of God, now come*

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THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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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 (S280)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 55:10-13

*All sit.*

A Reading from Isaiah.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65:9-14

*Sung by the choir.*

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

<sup>10</sup>You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

<sup>12</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

<sup>14</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*  
let them shout for joy and sing.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Jesus went out and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr.

*All sit.*

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 8:1-11

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 593 *Lord, make us servants of your peace* All stand.

*During the Sequence Hymn, children ages 12 and under are invited to leave for children's chapel. They will be escorted out the door at the front right of the nave.*

*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.**

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.

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.

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, \_\_\_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 may add a concluding Collect.*

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Priest 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

*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.*

*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.*

THE OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

*If you wish to give online, please use the QR code on the back page of the bulletin.*

*All stand to sing the Offertory verse when the offering is brought 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)

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says*

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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS



*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

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.**

*Celebrant* 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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*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.

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THE AGNUS DEI

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*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.*

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or the station on the floor.*

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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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*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.**

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THE BLESSING

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*The Celebrant blesses the people*

Go now, and proclaim that the reign of God is near.

Travel lightly, but bear one another's burdens,

and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Work for the good of all,

avoid temptation,

and pray that God will send more labourers into the harvest.

And may God give you mercy and peace;

May Christ Jesus give you power over all that would harm you;

And may the Holy Spirit produce within you

a rich harvest of joy and life. **Amen.**

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THE CLOSING HYMN 376 *Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee*

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THE DISMISSAL

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*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

THE POSTLUDE *Allegro con brio (Sonata IV)* Felix Mendelssohn

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

**Organist:** Joel Gregory

**Altar Guild:** Ashley Hamlett

**Lector and Intercessor:** Ashley Hamlett, Tracey Campbell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Virginia Banister, Kat Dailey, Mary Hughes, Maria Pacheco

**Ushers/Greeters:** Florence Tyson, Libby Beck, Ken Kline, Mary Martin Mitchell

**Flower Guild:** Josie Eskridge, Jane Barganier, Alice Longshore

**Flower Delivery Team:** Maria Pacheco, Anne Hamner, Allison Prillaman

**Videographer:** Scott Mitchell

**Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of:** Gen. James Everman Drummond, Dick Meinert

**Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:** Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Carolyn Fillmore, Mary Hughes, Emily Crump Johannes, Valinda Johnson, Phillip Kinney, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Carrie Shaw, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Stewart, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Phil Butler, Courtney Cobb, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Pat Patterson, Ron Skoneki, Alice Smith, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Michael White, Frank Winkler, Ross Wisnewski, Sharon Carney Wright

**Pastoral Care Team for July:** Linda Hutchinson, Jean Smyth, Elaine Galt, Mary Anne Durr, Renee Carlisle

*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.*

### **Parish Retreat November 13-15**

Join us for a Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell November 13–15 as we step away from the busyness of daily life for a weekend of fellowship, worship, reflection, and renewal. Nestled in the beauty of God’s creation, Camp McDowell offers the perfect setting to deepen relationships within our parish family and grow in faith together. Mark your calendar and plan to be part of this special time of rest, community, and spiritual refreshment. Signup links coming soon.

### **Sunday Class for August: How God Changes Your Brain**

Join us this August for a thought-provoking Sunday morning class exploring *How God Changes Your Brain* by neuroscientist Andrew Newberg. Blending cutting-edge brain research with spiritual practice, Newberg examines how prayer, meditation, compassion, and faith can physically reshape the brain and deepen our relationships with God and one another.

Together, we'll discuss the fascinating connections between neuroscience and spirituality, exploring how ancient practices of faith can foster greater peace, empathy, resilience, and well-being. Sundays in August, 9:15 a.m. in the Library.

### **Young Adults Gathering – July 23**

Young adults are invited to gather for an evening of fellowship and good food on Wednesday, July 23, at 6 p.m. at the home of Emily and Jess Howard. Bring a favorite dish and beverage to share as we enjoy conversation, community, and a relaxed summer evening together. For more information or directions, please contact the church office.

### **All Ages Worship Service**

This summer at St. John’s, we invite you to gather for a joyful, all-ages worship service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs Children's Chapel. Designed especially for the rhythm of summer, this shorter, lively service offers a welcoming space for children, youth, and adults alike. Together we'll share in music, prayer, Holy Communion, and an interactive message that engages hearts and minds of every age.

### **Bach's Lunch Organ Concerts**

St John's is proud to host concerts jointly with First United Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, & Church of the Ascension. On July 15, **Joel Gregory** will present a recital at St. John's followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall. Concert is at noon. Please see [www.agomontgomery.org](http://www.agomontgomery.org) for details on these performances.

### **Internationally Acclaimed Harpist Joost Willemze in Concert**

Join us Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m. at St. John's for an extraordinary evening of music featuring award-winning Dutch harpist Joost Willemze, one of the leading harpists of his generation. A recipient of the prestigious Dutch Classical Talent Award, he is celebrated for bringing fresh energy and versatility to the harp through both beloved repertoire and contemporary works. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

#### THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

The Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III, *Bishop*

#### ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

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

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

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

J.R. Marshall, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Emily Howard, *Lay Associate for Adult Formation*

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

*St. John's is a beacon in the  
heart of Montgomery,  
welcoming all into  
Christ's transforming love.*



## 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.

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### 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.

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

[stjohnsmontgomery.org](http://stjohnsmontgomery.org)



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### 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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