



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WITH THE BISHOP'S VISITATION

CONFIRMATION & THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *Allegro con brio & Andante Religioso (Sonata IV)*
Felix Mendelssohn
Vivace (Sonata in G) Johann Sebastian Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

THE WORD OF GOD

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Bishop continues

There is one Body and one Spirit
People **There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism
People **One God and Father of all.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAAH 51:1-6

All sit.

A Reading from Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

Sung by the choir.

¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

³for you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

⁴When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁶They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁷Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

⁹The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 12:1-8

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 490 *I want to walk as a child of the light*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

All stand.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON The Right Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III *All sit.*

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Presenters I present these persons for confirmation: Robbie Everitt, Susan Clark, Brantley Kirk, Laura Grace Dennis, Annalyse Bergman, Lee Moore, Sarah Moore, Harlan White, Burton Holmes, William Russell, Jonathan Perotti

I present this person to be received into this communion: Kathie Mangum

I present these people for reaffirmation of faith: Jack Taylor, Jack Fournoy

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates **I do.**

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR CONFIRMATION

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

FOR RECEPTION

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

FOR REAFFIRMATION

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the

knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

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 ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

**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 as 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 Bishop faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

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

Bishop 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, through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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 people stand or kneel, then the Bishop 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:

Bishop and people

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Bishop 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.**

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

People and Bishop

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

Bishop Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Bishop presents the bread and wine 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.

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

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.

Bishop 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

The Bishop blesses the people

THE CLOSING HYMN 473 *Lift high the cross*

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

THE POSTLUDE

Flourish in Five

Rob Danter

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rt. Rev. Richard Lawson, III, *Bishop*

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

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

Acolytes: Davis Schremser, Anna Lynn White, McKinney Wise

Altar Guild: James Rinehart

Lector and Intercessor: Scott Mitchell, Ashley Roseboro

Eucharistic Ministers: Betsy Cannon, Kat Dailey, Dudley Perry

Ushers/Greeters: Bill Eskridge, Somerville Hill, Mary Martin Mitchell,
Ashley Roseboro

Flower Guild: Sarah Spratling

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanne Drummond, Debbie & George Wakefield

Videographer: Ken Kline

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Elmeria McCallum Spratling,
Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Jr., Ruth Omega Hartley McCallum, Robert Earnest
McCallum Sr., Sarah Whitaker Spratling, Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Sr.,
Dottie Moore, Gavin Moore, James Van Dis, Karen Hackney, Frank Rosa

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Laura Brendle,
Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Carolyn Fillmore, Tom Horton, 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, Julia Thompson, Barbara
Wallace, Florence Young

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

Pastoral Care Team for August: Libby Beck, Seibels Marshall, Emily Wise, Fairlie
Herron, Jennifer Thompson

*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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Kickoff Sunday September 13

You do not want to miss Kickoff Sunday on September 13. Children's Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. and everyone is invited to stay for a picnic lunch directly following the 10:30 service where St. John's will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. There will be water inflatables for the children, so do not forget to bring swimsuits and beach towels.

Celebration of Lay Ministry

Have you ever wondered how God might be calling you to serve at St. John's? Join us for our Celebration of Lay Ministry on Sunday, September 13, at 9:15 a.m. This special event is an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that help make St. John's a vibrant and welcoming parish community. From worship and music to outreach, hospitality, Christian formation, pastoral care, communications, and more, there is a place for everyone to share their gifts. Parishioners will have the chance to meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and sign up for opportunities that match their interests and talents. Explore the full list of opportunities at St. John's and discover where you are called to serve.

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. Sign up on the St. John's website.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

St. John's is looking for additional volunteers to deliver our Meals on Wheels route on the first and fifth Monday of each month. For many of our neighbors, these deliveries provide more than a nutritious meal—they offer a friendly face, a brief conversation, and the reminder that someone cares. It is a simple act of kindness that makes a lasting difference.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer for this rewarding ministry, please contact the church office.

NEED: Food and Supplies for Blessing Bags

We are in need of more food to pass out to our friends in Downtown Montgomery! We are collecting supplies for Blessing Bags for our friends in need. Needs include: non-perishable foods like granola bars, trail mix, & tuna/cracker packs, ChapStick, Ensure or protein drinks, small bottled waters, and gallon ziplock bags. Please bring supplies to the education building and place on the round table provided. It's easier than ever to help! Visit the St. John's website for an Amazon Wishlist.

The St. John's Backpack Ministry is in need of khaki pants of all sizes for the start of the school year...no cargo pants please. Bring all donations to the Education Building.

Donations now being accepted for the Annual Bazaar

Have you been busy cleaning out your house trying to beat this summer heat? The Bazaar is taking donations of gently used household items, collectibles, holiday decor, artwork and more. Your donations may be dropped off under the stairs by the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Carter at melcart82@gmail.com. Mark your calendars for the St. John's Annual Bazaar, Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN FORMATION

All Ages Worship Service

Only one Sunday left to experience the joyful all-ages worship service 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.

Sunday Class for August: How God Changes Your Brain

Join us next Sunday for the final installment of the 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. 9:15 a.m. in the Library.

Spiritual Practices Lab: Sacred Rhythms for Everyday Life

What if prayer, scripture, and reflection could become less like obligations and more like life-giving rhythms? Join us for a seven-week online Spiritual Practices Lab on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. online. We will explore simple, time-tested practices that help us become more attentive to God's presence in our daily lives. Together, we'll explore practices such as the Examen, Lectio Divina, centering prayer, gratitude, praying the Psalms, developing a personal rule of life, and spiritual journaling. For more information or to register, email emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

12 for Today: The Minor Prophets Speak

Beginning Sunday, September 20, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, join us for a new Rector's Forum, "12 for Today." These twelve prophets may be called "minor," but their messages are anything but small. Together, we'll explore these often-overlooked books of the Old Testament and discover what these ancient voices have to say about faith, justice, mercy, hope, and our lives today.

Men's Focus Breakfast Returns September 12

The Men's Focus Breakfast returns Saturday, September 12, at 8 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Join us for a hearty breakfast, fellowship, and meaningful conversation as we begin a new season together. Our program will explore how men can embody the Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—in our relationships, work, communities, and daily lives. All men are invited.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

The Right 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



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.
Your generosity supports our ministries
in Montgomery and beyond.

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