



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *Praise God, Ye Christians, All Together* Johann Gottfried Walther
 Cromborne sur la Taille (Mass for the Convents) François Couperin

THE OPENING HYMN 10 *New every morning is the love*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y 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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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: JEREMIAH 15:15-21

A Reading from Isaiah.

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 26:1-8

Sung by the choir.

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity; *

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²Test me, O Lord, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.

³For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.
⁴I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.
⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,
⁷Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 12:9-21

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 383 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16: 21-28

All stand.

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

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM IV

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.

Celebrant 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

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 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 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 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

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

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as able.

After Communion, the celebrant says 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 follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Rejoice in hope, hold fast to what is good,

persevere in prayer.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

As far as is possible, live peaceably with all.

And may God hear your cries and deliver you;

May Christ Jesus repay you with fullness of life;

And may the Holy Spirit be with you always

nourishing you in love and hope. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 675 *Take up your cross and follow me*

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

THE POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C

John Stanley

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

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

Acolytes: Will Evans Clark, John David Collier, Burton Holmes

Altar Guild: Josie Eskridge

Lector and Intercessor: Reg McLane, Ken Kline

Eucharistic Ministers: William Haynes, Mary Hughes, Fairley McDonald

Ushers/Greeters: Florence Tyson, Tracey Campbell, Elizabeth Lawlor,

Jim Marshall

Flower Guild: Bette Smith

Flower Delivery Team: Tracey Campbell

Videographer: Emily & Jess Howard

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Alice McKeithen Persons, S. Gordon Persons, Sr., Elizabeth Persons Killingsworth, Albert Killingsworth, Jr., Maida Eubanks Persons, Grace Allen Britt, James Hargrove Richardson, Capt. O. Ashley Richardson, Jr., Harry Elliott Allen, Jr., Martha Richardson Allen, Lorena Wolverson, Stanley Wolverson, Helen Worrilow, Lawrence Worrilow

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Kitty Coleman, 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 September: Meri Moody, Nancy Bradford, Mary Helen Mahan

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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