



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE

Andante (Trio Sonata in d minor)
Simple Gifts

J.S. Bach
Dale Wood

THE OPENING HYMN 334 *Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

All stand.

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

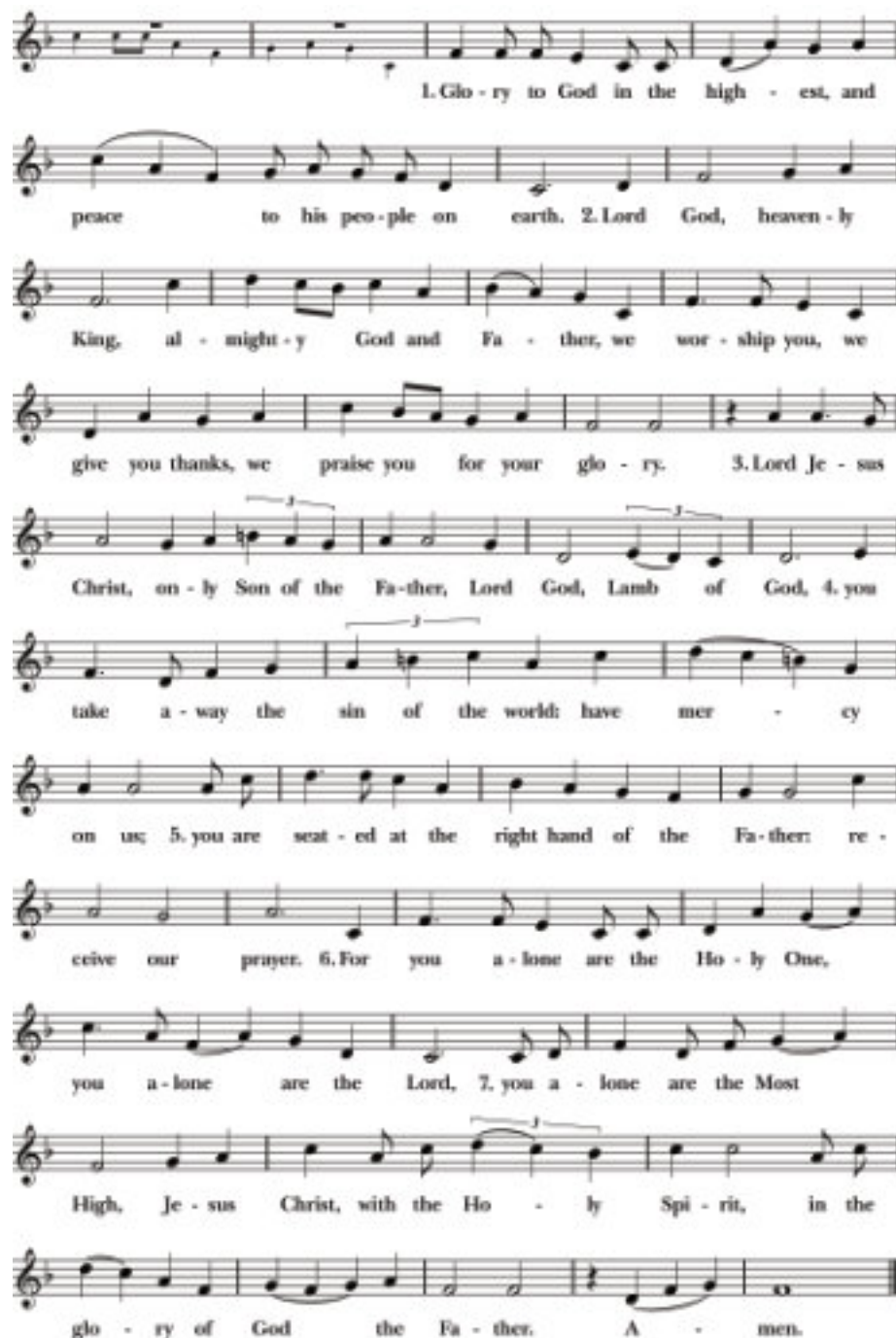
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Welcome to St. John's, A Beacon in the Heart of Montgomery
We're glad you're here. Whether St. John's has been your church home
for years or you are joining us for the first time, you are welcome.
We invite you to worship, connect, and discover with us the
transforming love of Christ.

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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: EZEKIEL 33:7-11

A Reading from Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, "As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:33-40

Sung by the choir.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
 and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
 I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
 for that is my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees *
 and not to unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *

give me life in your ways.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 13:8-14

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 554 *'Tis the gift to be simple*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20

All stand.

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

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

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a

Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

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: 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 ANTHEM

**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 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.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed
us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us
now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love
and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Go now as creators and preservers of life,
and live together as one.
Do not follow blind guides,
but always be prepared to hear the Word of God anew,
even challenging you from unexpected sources.
And may God bless you with life forever;
May Christ Jesus heal you of all that would harm you;
And may the Holy Spirit cleanse your hearts of all that would defile you. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 610 *Lord, whose love through humble service*

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

THE POSTLUDE

The People Respond 'Amen' (Rubrics)

Dan Locklair

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

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

Acolytes: Costa Cumuze, Sam Snyder, Harlan White

Lector and Intercessor: Debbie Schremser, Natalie Snyder

Eucharistic Ministers: Kat Dailey, Robbie Everitt, Bill Harlow

Ushers/Greeters: Bill Johnson, Mary Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman,
Cole Wise

Flower Guild: Mary Helen Mahan, Fay Worrilow

Flower Delivery Team: George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Jess & Caleb Howard

Instrumentalists: Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson, *basoon*;
Robby Gibson, *guitar*

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Turner Christian Cameron, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Henry & James Chappell, 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, Jeanie Rue, Carrie Shaw, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Stewart, Julia Thompson, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Mac Burton, Courtney Cobb, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Jane Lampley, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Lyl Parker, 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

Heavenly Hosts September 8

Adults covered dish supper Tuesday, September 8, 6-8 p.m. Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Henry and Libby Weatherly. Soft drinks will be provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.

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. 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 - Families Welcome

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. Visit the St. John's website to register.

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.

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

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.

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.





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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