



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE	<i>Allegro (Trio Sonata in E-flat)</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	Healey Willan

THE OPENING HYMN 377 *All people that on earth do dwell*

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.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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: GENESIS 50:15-21

A Reading from Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13

Sung by the choir.

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
⁹He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
¹³As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 14:1-12

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 438 *Tell out, my soul*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

All stand.

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

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 *As Newborn Stars were Stirred to Song* John K. Hirten

**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, strong in the mercies of God.

Do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,

so that knowing the will of God

your whole lives may become a sacrifice of praise,

holy and acceptable to God.

And may God, the Creator of earth and sky, be your help;

May the Son of the Living God ground you on solid rock;

And may the Holy Spirit equip you with all the gifts and graces of Christ. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

THE POSTLUDE

Adagio

J.S. Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

Organist: Joel Gregory

Acolytes: Knox Presley Clark, Burton Holmes

Altar Guild: Ashley Hamlett

Lector and Intercessor: Ken Kline, Ashley Roseboro

Eucharistic Ministers: Betsy Cannon, Keith Miller, Mary-Nelms Parsons

Ushers/Greeters: Florence Tyson, Libby Beck, Jim Marshall, Ashley Roseboro

Flower Guild: Betsy Cannon, Mary Martin Mitchell

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

Videographer: Scott Mitchell

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Julia Marks Dozier, Jane Dozier Harris, Charles Andrew Harris, Jr., Lucille Jackson Harris, Charles Andrew Harris, Sr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Henry & James Chappell, 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, Sandra Pierce, 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 and Celebration of Lay Ministry TODAY

- 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.
- 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. Register via this QR code or pick up a registration form in the narthex or front desk.

REGISTER FOR
PARISH RETREAT



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 or visit stjohnsmontgomery.org/pages/serve.

GET READY FOR THE ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR

Preparations are underway for the St. John's Annual Bazaar on Wednesday, November 18! There are plenty of ways to help:

- **Bazaar Cooking:** Join us at 9:30 a.m. for cooking and fellowship! Tuesday, September 15 – Creole Sauce; Thursday, September 17 – Creamy Curry Cauliflower & Broccoli Soup
- **Silent Auction Donations:** We're looking for quality items such as antique furniture, rugs, artwork, china and silver, lamps, and decorative housewares. Donations may be left under the stairs in the Christian Formation Building. Questions? Contact Kathleen Bradford at kbradbrad@aol.com or 334-201-2425.
- **Arts & Crafts Donations:** Share your creativity by donating handmade home décor, seasonal decorations, jewelry, woodcrafts, sewn items, and other handcrafted treasures. Please price-tag items and drop them off at the church office. Questions? Contact Murray Bennett or Christine Kline.
- **Treasure Attic Donations:** Cleaning out? Donate gently used household items, collectibles, holiday décor, artwork, and more. Drop donations under the stairs by the church office. Questions? Contact Melissa Carter at melcart82@gmail.com.

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.

113 MADISON AVENUE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
334-262-1937
STJOHNSMONTGOMERY.ORG
CHURCHOFFICE@STJOHNSMONTGOMERY.ORG