



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude: "To God Alone on High Be Praised"* J.S. Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 371 *Thou, whose almighty word*

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

A Reading from Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

“As I live,” says the Lord God, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord God. “Turn, then, and live.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
 my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated,
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.
²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
³Show me your ways, O Lord, *
 and teach me your paths.
⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.
⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
 and teaches his way to the lowly.

THE EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 408 *Sing praise to God who reigns above*THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32*All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

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

Adagio (BWV 564, no. 2)

J.S. Bach

**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 to will and to work for God's purposes.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Be filled with the same love

and look to the interests of others.

With reverence for God, work out your salvation.

And may God quench your thirst with love and consolation;

May Christ Jesus strengthen you and encourage you;

And may the Holy Spirit lead you on and make your joy complete. **Amen.**

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 *Chorale Prelude: "These Are the Holy Ten Commands"* J.S. Bach

TODAY'S SERVERS

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

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

Acolytes: Adams Hill, Parker Mantooth

Altar Guild: James Rinehart

Lector and Intercessor: Scott Mitchell, Nick Prillaman

Eucharistic Ministers: Fairley McDonald, Reg McLane, Dudley Perry

Ushers/Greeters: Mary Marin Mitchell, Nick Prillaman, Karen Westhauser,
Cole Wise

Flower Guild: Mary Ward Wisnewski, JR Marshall

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanne Drummond, Debbie & George Wakefield

Videographer: Ken Kline

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: George Edward von Gal, Suzanne Bellingrath von Gal, William Bellingrath von Gal, Donald Burton Holmes, James Townsend Merwin, Foy Catherine Stevenson Merwin, Young Stevenson

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, Eddie Patillo, 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, Andy Silverman, 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

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 get involved. The Bazaar is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and getting to know our fellow parishioners better.

- **Bazaar Cooking:** Join us at 9:30 a.m. for cooking and fellowship! Tuesday, September 29– Chicken & Wild Rice Soup; Thursday, October 1 – Chicken and Sausage Gumbo.
- **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:** Join us Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for some crafting and fellowship on the second floor of the education building. You can also 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 at murray.bennett@earthlink.net or 334-430-8660.

- **Treasure Attic Donations:** Cleaning out? Donate gently used household items, collectibles, holiday décor, artwork, and more (no clothing, please). Drop donations under the stairs by the church office. If you would like to share in fellowship and help organize, price, or set up please contact Melissa Carter at melcart82@gmail.com or text her at 334-868-3251.

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.

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.

STAYING CONNECTED TO ST. JOHN'S

There is always something happening at St. John's, and we want to make it easy for you to stay informed, get involved, and know what's coming up.

Whether you prefer print, email, social media, or our website, there are several ways to find the latest news and information from the parish.

- **Sunday Bulletins & Announcements**

Each Sunday's bulletin includes information about upcoming worship, formation, fellowship, outreach opportunities, and other parish events. Be sure to check the announcements as you plan your week.

- **Weekly E-Newsletter**

Our weekly e-newsletter is one of the best places to find a roundup of what's happening at St. John's. Email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org to subscribe.

- **St. John's Website**

Visit the St. John's website anytime for information about worship, ministries, formation, upcoming events, serving opportunities, and more.

- **Facebook & Instagram**

Follow St. John's on Facebook and Instagram for event reminders, photos, parish updates, and glimpses of life at St. John's throughout the week. Sharing our posts is also an easy way to invite others into the life of our parish.

- **Around the Church**

Keep an eye on flyers and signs in the Parish Hall and Church Office for information about upcoming events, classes, outreach opportunities, and special programs.

- **Special Email Announcements**

For particularly important or timely information, we may also send a special parish-wide email between our regular weekly newsletters. Email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org or call 334-262-1937 if you are not receiving emails from our rector.

With so much happening at St. John's, we encourage you to check in regularly and use whichever communication channels work best for you. Our goal is to help everyone stay connected to the worship, fellowship, formation, and service that make up our life together.



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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