



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE

Prelude and Fughetta

Healey Willan

THE OPENING HYMN 388 *O worship the King*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

All stand.

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

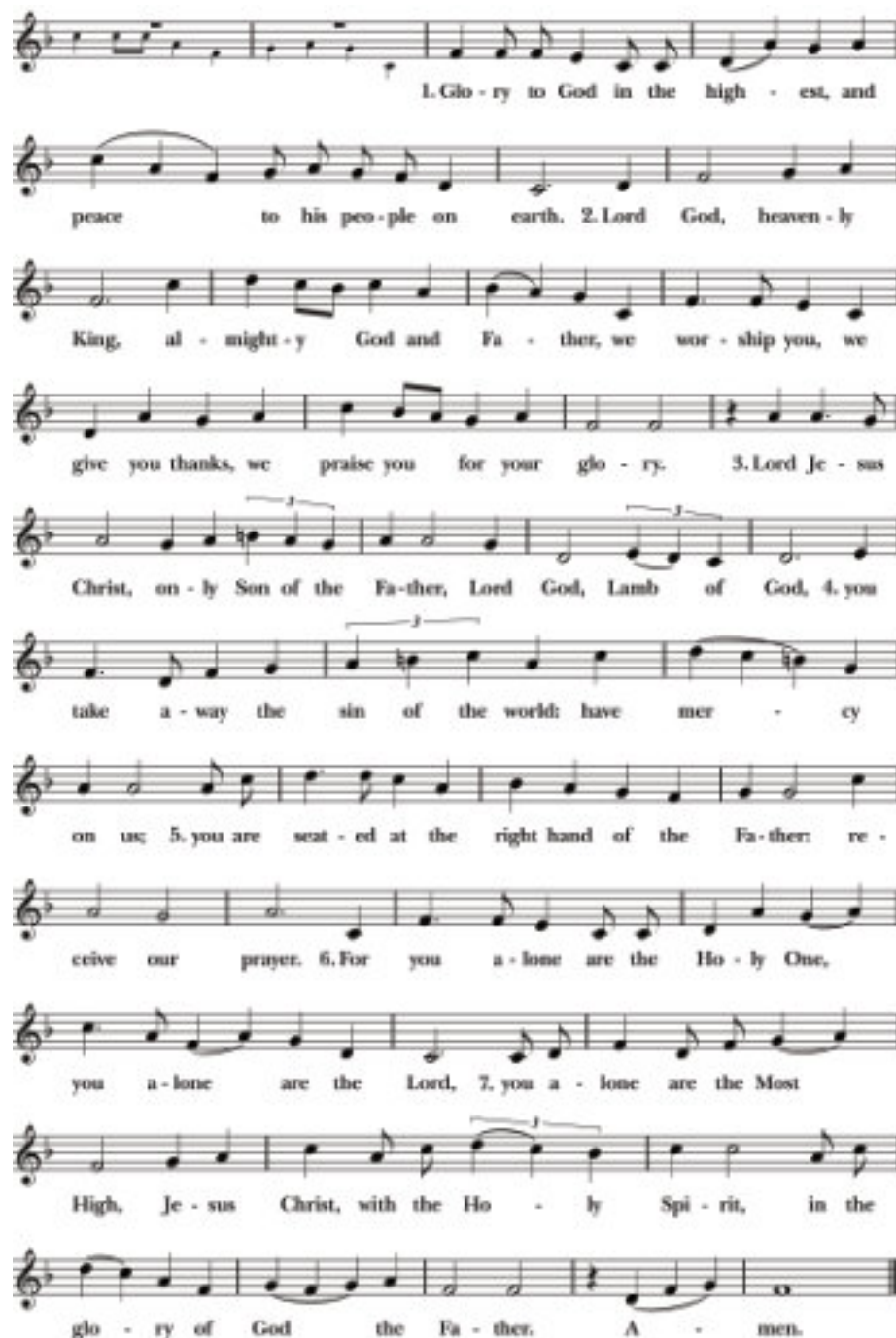
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 5:1-7

A Reading from Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:7-14

Sung by the choir.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *

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

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?'

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

you cast out the nations and planted it.

⁹You prepared the ground for it; *

it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow *

and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *

and its branches to the River.

¹²Why have you broken down its wall, *

so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; *

preserve what your right hand has planted.

THE EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 3:4-14

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

Intermezzo

Healey Willan

**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 into the world and live for Christ.

Whatever you do, do it in honor of the Lord
giving thanks to God.

Show forgiveness to one another

as in Christ you have received forgiveness.

And may God provide an escape from all that threatens you;

May Christ Jesus shower mercy on you and through you;

And may the Holy Spirit uphold you as you stand in Christ. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 401*The God of Abraham praise*

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

Acolytes: Burton Holmes, William Russell, Sam Snyder

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Organist: Jim Conely

Lector and Intercessor: Reg McLane, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Betsy Cannon, Mary Hughes, Keith Miller

Ushers/Greeters: Rich Anderson, Tracey Campbell, Ken Kline, Cole Wise

Flower Guild: Jean Smyth, Kitty Coleman

Flower Delivery Team: George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Jess & Caleb Howard

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: James Drury Flowers, Sr., Mary Van Thornton Flowers, James Drury Flowers, Jr., Donna Winslow Flowers, Dr. Willard D. Bennett, Martha Bennett, Anna Cecile Bennett, Cecile Morgan Webb
And in honor of: Cindy Morrison Seibels and Jule Seibels Northup

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Scott Bamman, Henry & James Chappell, Carolyn Fillmore, Marla Foster, Tom Horton, Emily Crump Johannes, Phillip Kinney, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Cameron Napier, Eddie Patillo, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Jeanie Rue, Carrie Shaw, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Stewart, Julia Thompson, Mark Waldo, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Courtney Cobb, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Jane Lampley, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Lyl Parker, Sandra Pierce, Ron Skoneki, Alice Smith, Maude Van Dis, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

Pastoral Care Team for October: Murray Bennett, Carrie Shaw, Margaret Peeples, Doris Ball

*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

Blessing of the Animals Oct. 4

Bring your furry, feathered, and four-legged friends to St. John's Blessing of the Animals TODAY 5 p.m. in the Labyrinth. In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for all God's creatures, we'll gather for a brief, joyful service honoring our beloved animal companions.

Each animal will receive a special blessing and a charm to take home.

Please bring a bag of pet food to donate to the Humane Society and help care for animals in need throughout our community.

Heavenly Hosts Dinner October 13

Bring a covered dish and join us at the home of Jim and Betsy Cannon Oct. 13 from 6-8 p.m.

ECW Conference

All Episcopal Church Women are invited to the 137th ECW Fall Conference, October 23–24 at Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville. Hosted by the Women of the Mountain Convocation, the weekend will include worship, fellowship, a silent auction, parish sharing, and an opportunity to connect with ECW members from across the diocese.

Bishop Richard Lawson will be the keynote speaker, returning to his hometown of Lake Guntersville. The conference begins Friday afternoon with registration, Holy Eucharist, and a wine and cheese welcome reception, followed by Saturday's Morning Prayer, business meeting, Bishop Lawson's address, and lunch. Visit alabamaecw.org for lodging information and conference registration, or scan the QR code on the event flyer. Please contact Kathleen Bradford with any questions at 334-201-2425.

Mark Your Calendars for Trunk or Treat--Trunks Needed

Join us for Trunk or Treat & Movie Night at St. John's on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Trunk or Treat begins at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot—kids can collect candy, show off costumes, and snap photos. Volunteers are needed to set up trunks. At 6 p.m., settle in for some spooky favorites on the big screen. Bring chairs or blankets, invite friends and neighbors, and enjoy a festive evening of fall fun, treats, and community. All ages are welcome—no cost, just come and celebrate!

Please contact our Director of Children's Formation at maria@stjohnsmontgomery.org if you would like to host a trunk.

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



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, October 6 – A La King Sauce; Thursday, October 8 – Beef & Noodle Casserole
- **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

Fall Teaching Series Begins This Week

Wednesdays, October 7, 14 & 21 | Dinner at 6 p.m. | Parish Hall

AI isn’t going away—and the questions surrounding it are changing almost as quickly as the technology itself. That’s why we’re rebooting our conversation about AI and the Church.

Join us for three Wednesday evenings as we take a fresh look at how Artificial Intelligence is shaping our daily lives and consider what it means for our faith, relationships, work, and life together as the Church. St. John’s welcomes back Dr. Jim Locke to guide our teaching and discussion.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., with teaching and discussion at 6:30 p.m. Children's and youth activities will be offered during the adult teaching time.

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 October 10

The Men’s Focus Breakfast will be 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.



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.

stjohnsmontgomery.org

Visit our website to see service times,
news from the parish, upcoming events,
mission opportunities and more.



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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