

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Prelude *Cantilene* Gabriel Pierne

The Opening Hymn 423 *Immortal, invisible*

The Opening Acclamation *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**
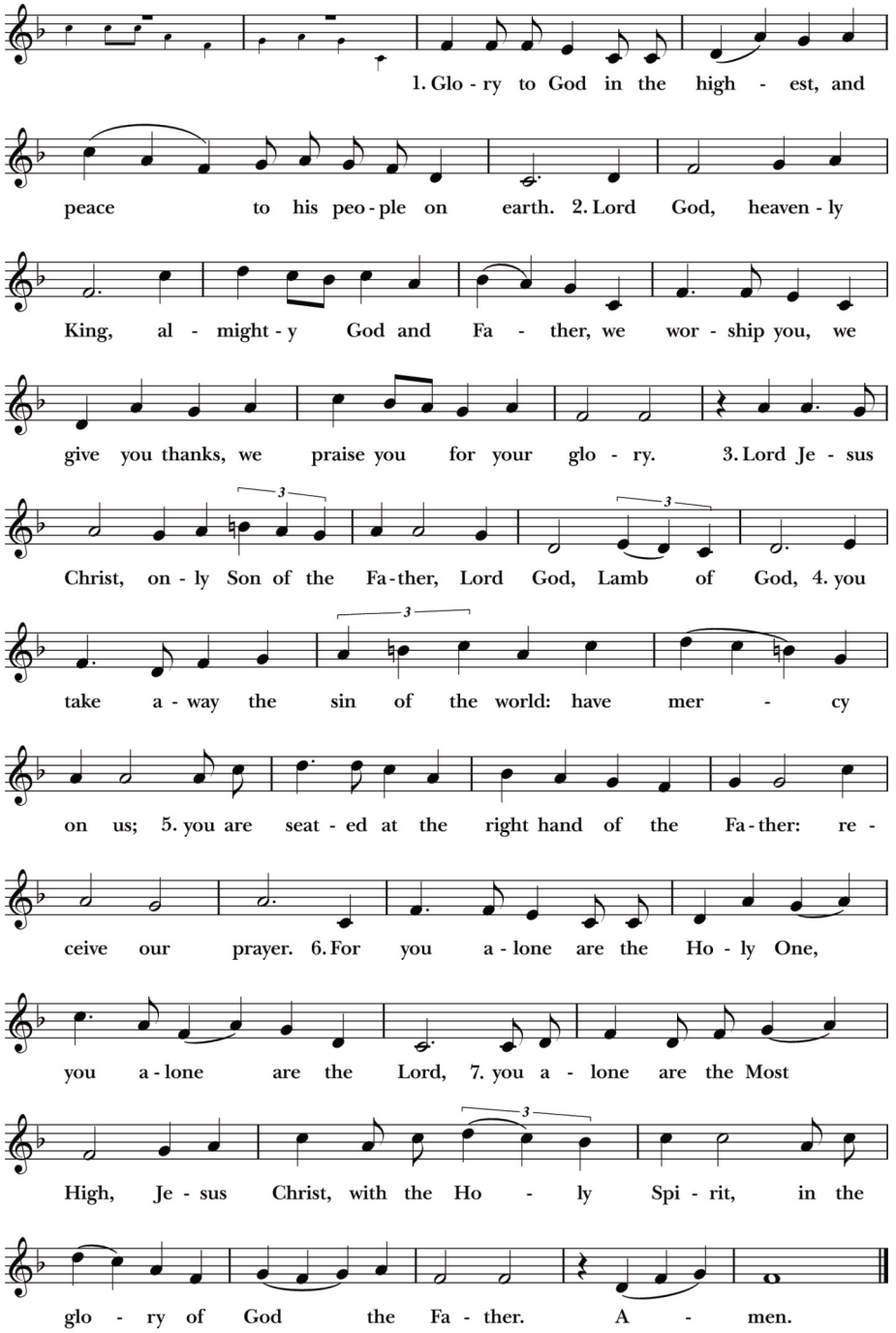
The Collect for Purity

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



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, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24

A Reading from Amos.

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70 *Sung by the choir.*

[1]Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
[2]Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.
[3]Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

[4]Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"
[5]But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
[6]You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

THE EPISTLE: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 450 *All hail the power of Jesus' Name (verses 1-3, 6)*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1-13 *All stand.*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore,or you know neither the day nor the hour."

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 — *All kneel as able.*

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.**

Stewardship Message

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 from "Modale Suite"* — Flor Peeters

**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.

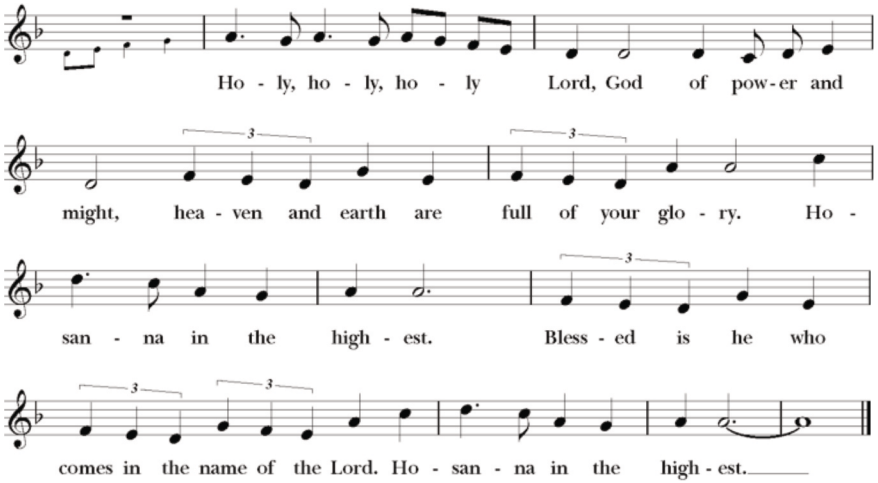
The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Agnus Dei

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

The Post-Communion Prayer *All kneel as able.*

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

The Blessing

Go now, and follow in the footsteps
of those who have gone before us in Christ.
Revere the Lord.
Serve God in sincerity and faithfulness.
Teach those who come after you to trust in God.
And may God protect you along the way;
May Christ Jesus keep you alert and prepared;
And may the Holy Spirit fuel the lamp that guides your path. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 618 *Ye watchers and ye holy ones* *All stand.*

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude *Pas vite* Gabriel Pierne

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rev. Duncan Johnston, DMin., *Rector*
The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*
Organist: Jim Conely
Acolytes: Will Evans Clark, Adams Hill
Altar Guild: Ashley Hamlett, Chuck Moore
Lector and Intercessor: Ken Kline, Scott Mitchell
Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Harlow, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Virginia Banister
Ushers/Greeters: Bill Eskridge, Elizabeth Lawlor, Jim Marshall, Ashley Roseboro
Flower Guild: Josie Eskridge, Jane Barganier, Alice Longshore
Flower Delivery Team: Maria Pacheco, Anne Hamner, Allison Prillaman
Videographer: Scott Mitchell

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: the Rev. James Walter and Katherine Walter

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Rosa Davis, 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, Barbara & Stewart 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, Matthew Millner, Margaret Moore, Lyl Parker, Ron Skoneki, Alice Smith, Laura Smith, Shirley Terry, Maude Van Dis, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

Pastoral Care Team for November: Debbie Schremser, Rose Lawson, Christy Anderson, Dorothy Arrington, Theda Ocheltree, Laura Klinestiver

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

Youth Trip to Sewanee
Join EYC for an overnight trip to Sewanee for Lessons & Carols! We'll leave early Saturday, December 5, and return Sunday, December 6. All St. John's youth in grades 7–12 and their friends are welcome for this Advent weekend of worship and fellowship. Let J.R. know if you're able to come!

Sunday Morning Formation: Asking Better Questions of the Bible
Beginning November 1. What if our questions could lead us deeper into faith? Join us for a new formation series based on the book *Asking Better Questions of the Bible.* Through Scripture, reflection, and conversation, we'll explore how context, curiosity, and fresh perspectives can deepen our understanding of the Bible and shape our daily lives.

Remembrance Sunday Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed for St. John's upcoming Remembrance Sunday. This has become a tradition at St. John's and includes installing hundreds of Alabama Poppy Project ceramic poppies. We need five volunteers to help pack up the poppies at 2 p.m. on Monday November 9. The installation and de-installation each takes about one hour. Refreshments will be offered.

The Remembrance Sunday liturgy of healing and remembrance will be in the St. John's Labyrinth Garden at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, November 8. All participants will receive a paper lapel poppy. Contact Will Hill Tankersley at 205-540-5045 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels
Help us share Christ's love, one meal at a time. St. John's is looking for additional volunteers to deliver our Meals on Wheels route on the first and fifth Monday of each month. If you would like to learn more or volunteer for this rewarding ministry, please contact the church office.

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:

- **Calling all bakers!** The St. John's Bazaar Pantry is asking for donations of your delicious pies, cakes, cookies, sweet treats, and savory snacks. We would especially love your favorite Thanksgiving desserts: pecan pies, pumpkin pies, apple pies, etc. Please label and deliver them to the church

office by Tuesday, November 17th. Thank you for sharing your talent and love through baking! Contact: Mitzi Waldo 334-224-8045 or mitzichesser@hotmail.com

- **Bazaar Cooking:** Join us at 9:30 a.m. for cooking and fellowship! Tuesday, November 10- Italian Delight; Thursday, November 5 – Beef Tips
- **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.

Staying Connected at 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.



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.

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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.

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