



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:30am  
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to Our Guests*

*We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. 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. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)**

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**THE PRELUDE**     *Adagio (Trio in E-flat)*     Johann Sebastian Bach

**THE OPENING HYMN 428** *O all ye works of God, now come*

**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.**

# 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.

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) in measures 10, 11, and 19. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical lines.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

*All sit.*

### THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 25: 19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 119:105-112 (*sung by soloist*)

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lantern to my feet \*  
and a light upon my path.

<sup>106</sup>I have sworn and am determined \*  
to keep your righteous judgments.

- 107 I am deeply troubled; \*  
    preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, \*  
    and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, \*  
    yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, \*  
    but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; \*  
    truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes \*  
    for ever and to the end.

### **THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 8:1-11**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN 302** *Father, we thank thee who hast planted*

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23**

*All stand*

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

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus went out and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*Priest* 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 VI)

*All kneel as able.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, and Duncan and Deonna our priests, and all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*Priest and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 people stand to greet one another.*

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.*

Offertory Voluntary

*All stand to sing the Offertory verse when the offertory is brought up 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)**

*All stand.*

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*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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. 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**THE SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*All kneel as they are able*

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.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*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 priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.  
Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*All kneel as they are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

*All kneel.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people*

Go now into the world and grow an abundant harvest. Do not let the fear of troubles or the lures of comfort prevent God's word taking root deep in your heart and mind. Walk according to the ways of the Spirit, for the ways of the Spirit are life and peace. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you always. **Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN 541** *Come, labor on*

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**THE POSTLUDE** *Fugue in G*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Rector:** The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin

**Assoc. Rector:** The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

**Director of Children's Formation:** Sarah Collier

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Connie Tapia

**Acolytes:** JM Longshore, Parker Mantooh, Lawton McCollum,  
Susannah Miller

**Lector and Intercessor:** Ashley Hamlett, Keith Miller

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mark Chappell, Morgan Chappell,  
Fairley McDonald

**Ushers/Greeters:** William Haynes, Anne Hamner, Keith Miller,  
Michelle Shaw

**Altar Guild:** Melissa Carter, Debbie Schremser

**Flower Guild:** Jeanne Drummond, Catherine McLemore

**Flower Delivery Team:** Melissa Carter, Doris Ball

**Videographer:** Jim Cannon

**Instrumentalists:** Joel Gregory, *organ*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*;  
David Simpson, *bassoon*..

### **Altar Flowers given in memory of:**

Richard Henry Arrington, Pauline White Arrington,

Richard Henry Arrington, Jr., Mary Black Arrington, McMillian Lane,

Jean Bellingrath Lane

### **Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:**

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Murray Bennett, Bob Hill,

Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Richard McCrory, Larry Worriow

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Gigi Boyd, James Buzard,  
Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA), Wilber Hill Jr. (VA), Ashley Freeman, Karen and  
Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Michael Slagle.

*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.*

### **Pastoral Care Team for July:**

Linda Hutchinson, Jean Smyth, Elaine Galt, Carroll Penton,

Mary Anne Durr

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Summer Sermon Series: From Eden to Egypt.** This summer the Old Testament readings will come from the books of Genesis and Exodus. Each week, we will read an episode of a grand and inspiring story. We will hear of heroes and villains, patriarchs and matriarchs, sinners, and saints. We'll see God's hand at work in happy circumstances, and tragic. Then we will learn from Duncan and Deonna as they preach about these Old Testament characters. We will see what lessons these ancient personalities can teach us and discover how we can live more faithful Christian lives. Join us every Sunday at 7:30 and 10:30am or on YouTube and Facebook at any time.

**Eden to Egypt Companion Bible Study:** Sundays, 9:15 AM.

Join Duncan and Deonna in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Archives room for a deeper discussion of the weekly Old Testament readings.



**Meals on Wheels:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, starting in May. St. John's will be partnering with MACOA to deliver meals to Seniors. Use the QR code to sign up. Ride along training is available, email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org) to schedule.

**Mercy House:** Volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM -1:00 P.M each Thursday to serve hot meals at Mercy House. Mercy House is a day shelter serving West Montgomery by providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities and laundry facilities. For questions or more information please contact Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989.

**Visitors:** Welcome! We are so glad you decided to visit with us today. Please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

