



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, September 24th, 2023, 10:30 am
The Seventeenth 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.

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE *Andante Tranquillo (Sonata III)* Felix Mendelssohn
 Etude No. 3 Fernando Sor

THE OPENING HYMN 376 *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

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 SONG OF PRAISE (CANTICLE 13)

MUSIC IS S236 IN THE HYMNAL

**Glorify to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glorify to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'"

And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45

Sung by choir.

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
42. For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.

- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 551 *Rise up, ye saints of God*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-6

All stand

Priest 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 early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he

went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 II)

All kneel as able.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops, Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Glenda and Brain our bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially _____.
Pray for those who have died. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for _____. *Silence.*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant then bids the confession with these words.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 PEACE

The people stand to greet one another.

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 stand to sing.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 541 *Come, labor on*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

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

THE SANCTUS S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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.

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.

During communion the choir sings

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 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 as they are able.

The Celebrant blesses the people

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 690 *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

THE DISMISSAL

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Toccata in Seven*

John Rutter

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin

The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: Molly Selman, J.M. Longshore, Lawton McCollum,

Thomas Lawlor, Suzanne Holmes

Lector and Intercessor: Callie Dietz, Scott Mitchell

Eucharistic Ministers: Cam Armstrong, Betsy Cannon, Fairley McDonald

Ushers/Greeters: William Haynes, Melissa Carter, Allison Prillaman,

Debbie Schremser

Altar Guild: Jeanne Drummond

Flower Guild: Caroline Lawson, Laura McLemore

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanne Drummond, Bette Smith,

Debbie Schremser

Videographer: Anne Tippett

Instrumentalists: Joel Gregory, *organ*; Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson,

bassoon; George Crosby, *guitar*.

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

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Katie Keller, Valerie Lee,

Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Barbara Wells,

Fay Worrilow, Larry Worrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Frankie McAdams Barlow,

Mac Burton, James Buzard, Michael Finnen, Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA),

Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Michael Slagle, Chandler Taylor, Joe Wendel,

Frank Winkler

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 September: Emmi Harrell, Meri Moody,

Nancy Bradford, Carma Marks, Mary Helen Mahan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honduras Mission Trip Thank You Lunch: Today, Sunday, September 24th, immediately after the 10:30 service. We would like to thank all those who counted pills, prayed for the team, or donated monetarily for our mission. Please join us and hear a little about our trip. A light lunch will be served.

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. All pets and their owners are invited to join in this popular service held in the labyrinth. All animals must be in a crate or on a leash. The Montgomery Zoo Animal Ambassadors and the Petting Zoo will be present. The Rosemary Bistro food truck will be here, www.therosemarybistro.com

Fall Teaching Series. *No Family Left Untouched: Drugs and our community.* Wednesday nights, Oct. 11th-Nov. 4th. Join us for a sobering and in-depth study of the problems of drugs in our community. Over the four weeks, we will hear from experts who offer unique perspectives on a phenomenon that is tearing at the heart of our local communities, including a medical practitioner, a law enforcement officer, a mental health practitioner, and a legal expert. Dinner is served at 6:00, speakers begin at 6:30.

Children's Fall Program: *Jesus' "Upside Down" Way of Living.* The life that Jesus offers is radically different than the one the world offers. When we go "all in" with Jesus, he turns our ordinary life upside down in the most incredible way. Nursery care is available.

Deonna's Fall Class: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the archives room. *The Life We're Looking for: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World* The book is available in the bookstore.

Fall Rector's Forum: Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library, beginning September 24th. *The Future isn't what it used to be Heaven, the second coming, judgment, and all that apocalyptic jazz.* We'll be using the book *Surprised by Hope* by N. T. Wright. It is available in the bookstore.

Bazaar Pantry Cooking: Tuesday and Thursday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. Join us in the St. John's kitchen.

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

