



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:30am

## The Eighteenth 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.*

### HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

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**THE PRELUDE** *Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness* Johann Sebastian Bach

**THE OPENING HYMN 546** *Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve*

**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 5236 IN THE HYMNAL*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**Glory 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.

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 LESSONS

*All sit.*

#### THE FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will

listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE RESPONSE: PSALM 19**

*Sung by choir.*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the Lord is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## THE EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-13

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 SEQUENCE HYMN 474 *When I survey the wondrous cross*

## THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-46

*All stand*

*Priest* 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.**

**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 448** *O love, how deep, how broad, how high*

## 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 518** *Christ is made the sure foundation*

### **THE DISMISSAL**

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

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

### **THE POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in C*

Johann Ludwig Krebs

## 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:** Jeb Clark, James Marshall, Thomas Arrington,  
Helen Johnston, Sarah Johnston

**Lector and Intercessor:** Virginia Banister, Reg McLane

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kat Dailey, J.R. Marshall, Betsy Cannon

**Ushers/Greeters:** Radney Ramsey, Ellen Habermacher,  
Dustin Holmes, Michelle Shaw

**Altar Guild:** Josie Eskridge

**Flower Guild:** Sarah Spratling

**Flower Delivery Team:** Anne & Reggie Hamner, Marla Foster,  
Maria Pacheco

**Videographer:** Scott Mitchell

**Instrumentalists:** Joel Gregory, *organ*; Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson,  
*basoon*; Robby Gibson, *guitar*.

**Altar Flowers given in memory of:** William Adams Gunter, Jr.,  
Julia Scott Gunter, William Adams Gunter III, Annie Laurie Cain Gunter,  
Avis Brannon Gunter, Rose Gunter Lawson, Thomas Seay Lawson,  
Sarah Clayton Lawson, Virginia Gunter Haas Orvis, Henry Paul Haas,  
Dora Pratt Smith Haas, Julia Fairlie Gunter Evans, Etherbert Henry Evans,  
Florence Evans Jordan, Ellen Gunter Rogers, Ellen Rogers Trotman,  
John McNeill Trotman, Anne Mercer Haynes, Oliver Lynn Haynes, Jr.,  
Grace Gunter Lane, Elizabeth Gunter Downey, Bruce Johnson Downey, Jr.

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

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Katie Keller, Valerie Lee,  
Ken Mahan, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Anne  
Ramsey, 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), Roger  
Jobe, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Alice Sarrett, Michael Slagel,  
Ron Skoneki, 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 October:** Carrie Shaw, Margaret Peeples,  
Caroline Lawson, Doris Ball, Laura Knapp

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Focus:** Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 8-9 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Please join Duncan for breakfast and a discussion on the topic of *Men and Work*. Please RSVP by Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, to ensure we have plenty of food. You may email RSVPs to [duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org)

**Heavenly Hosts:** Adult's covered dish supper Tuesday, Oct., 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m. Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Bonner Engelhardt, 1440 Charleton Dr, Montgomery, AL. Soft drinks are provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.

**Fall Teaching Series.** *No Family Left Untouched: Drugs and our community.* Wednesday nights, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. 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:** During the Fall Teaching Series, children will enjoy an alternate 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. *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.

**Chamber Music Concert:** Sunday, October 22, 2023, 4 p.m. The concert is held in the nave with a reception following in the Parish Hall



**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



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Right Reverend Brian N. Prior, *Assisting Bishop*

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

The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD, *Associate Rector*

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Sarah Collier, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*

Connie Tapia, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Constance Rodgers, *Director of Communications*

Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Superintendent*

### Vestry and Officers

William Haynes, *Senior Warden*

Margaret Ann Selman, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

### Class of 2023

Kathleen Bradford, Ellen Habermacher, Cam Hughes,

Michelle Shaw, Wyatt Wells

### Class of 2024

Christy Anderson, Jim Bennett, Josie Eskridge, Dustin Holmes,

Debbie Schremser

### Class of 2025

Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell, Anne Hamner, Catherine McLemore,

Keith Miller, Allison Prillaman

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