



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:30am  
The Twenty Fifth 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**     *Prelude on 'The Ash Grove'*     David Cherwien

**THE OPENING HYMN 598** *Lord Christ when first thou cam'st to earth*

**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*

**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.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LESSONS

*All sit.*

#### THE FIRST LESSON: JUDGES 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE RESPONSE: PSALM 123**

*Sung by choir.*

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, \*  
to you enthroned in the heavens. 2 As the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their masters, \*  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, \*  
until he show us his mercy.  
4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, \*  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,  
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
and of the derision of the proud.

**THE EPISTLE: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

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

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30**

*All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with

them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

*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 Brian 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 490** *I want to walk as a child of the light*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)**

*p. 361*

*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.*

*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*

The peace of God which passeth 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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN 632** *O Christ, the Word incarnate*



**THE DISMISSAL**

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

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

**THE POSTLUDE** *Allegro Maestoso (Sonata II)*

Felix Mendelssohn

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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:** Susannah Miller, Bobby Bradford, Nancy Bradford,  
Thomas Lawler, Eloise Carlisle

**Lector and Intercessor:** J.R. Marshall, Ashley Hamlett

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rich Anderson, Callie Dietz,  
Leale McCall, Mary-Nelms Parson

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Christy Anderson,  
Dustin Holmes, Michelle Shaw

**Altar Guild:** Jeanne Drummond

**Flower Guild:** Camilla Armstrong, Catherine McLemore

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

**Videographer:** Jim Cannon

**Instrumentalists:** James Mellichamp & Joel Gregory, *organ*;  
Jihye Choy, *violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*; Robby Gibson, *guitar*.

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

Jule Seibels Montjoy, Robert Emmet Seibels, Jr., Robert Emmet Seibels, Sr.,  
Fannie Marks Seibels, Caroline Rudolph Sellers, Philip Allen Sellers,  
Mary Elaine Morrison, William Dayton Morrison, Richard Wilson Montjoy,  
Louise Montjoy Lathem, William Douglas Morrison.

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

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Katie Keller, Ken Mahan,  
Robert Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price,  
Anne Ramsey, Anna Stevenson, Barbara Wells, Larry WorriLOW.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Gail Alsobrook,  
Frankie McAdams Barlow, Mac Burton, James Buzard, Ashley Carpenter,  
Michael Finnen, Roger Jobe, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Alice Sarrett,  
Pam Slate, 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 November:**

Debbie Schremser, Jean Chapman, Christy Anderson, Dorothy Arrington,  
Theda Tankersley Ocheltree.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Organ Concert:** Sunday, Nov. 19th, 4 p.m. Treatments on Thanksgiving hymn tunes with music of Mendelssohn, Rohlig, Bach, Guilmant, and others. A reception follows in the Parish Hall.

**Surviving the Holidays:** Grieving at Christmas. Wednesday, November 29th, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the library. If you or anyone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one and would like some practical tips and encouragement on how to navigate the challenges of the holiday season, please sign up for **Surviving the Holidays**. This 2-hour structured seminar will feature a video of testimonies of others who have lost loved ones as well as practical advice from mental health counselors who specialize in grief. Please RSVP to [deonna@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:deonna@stjohnsmontgomery.org) by Wed., Nov 23rd to ensure enough workbooks can be ordered.

**Advent Adult Bible Study:** Beginning Sunday, Dec. 3, Duncan and Deonna will be leading a bible study on the lectionary readings during the Advent Season. New adult classes will begin in January.

**Advent Wreath Making:** Sunday, Dec 3, after the 10:30 service. Lunch and wreath-making supplies are provided, please bring clippings to decorate your wreath if possible.

**Phone Volunteers Needed:** If you'd like to help staff the front desk please call the church office or email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org).

**Eagle Folders Needed:** The paper Eagle is not possible without the support of our Eagle folders. If you would like to help fold paper Eagles once a month, please email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org).

**Mercy House:** Volunteers are needed from 11:00 am -1:00 pm 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.



# 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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