



St. John's Episcopal Church

September 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

The Nineteenth 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)

with the baptism of Khanya Nelisa Mzongwana

THE PRELUDE

"...and the heavens were opened..." (Baptism Dance) Dan Locklair
Christ, Our Lord, To Jordan Came Johann Sebastian Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 296 *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

THE WORD OF GOD

HOLY BAPTISM

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THE SALUTATION

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant There is one body and one Spirit

People **There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.

People **One God and Father of all.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-25

A Reading from the book of Numbers.

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 19:7-14

Sung by the choir.

- ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- ⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light
to the eyes.
- ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹²Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³Above 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.
- ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

A Reading from the Letter of James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 679 *Surely it is God who saves me*

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

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

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Priest The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON The Rev Dr Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Parents and Godparents I present Khanya to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents **I will, with God's help.**

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of the world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer **I do.**

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Khanya who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open her hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant O, Lord that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of

Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant who pours water upon him saying Khanya Nelisa, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed the Priest says Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying Khanya, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then says Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

All stand.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

All sit.

At the end of the offertory voluntary, all stand and sing

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

All stand.

Celebrant 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.**

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:

SANCTUS

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.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.**

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

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.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Anyone who has been baptized is welcome to receive the consecrated bread. All others are welcome to come to the rail and receive a priestly blessing instead.

The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then serve the people with these words:

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant 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.

BLESSING

Go out now and celebrate wherever God's name is honored.

When suffering comes, pray.

In times of joy, sing songs of praise.

And may God the Father save you from all that would harm you;

May Christ Jesus heal you and raise you up;

and may the Holy Spirit give you peace with one another. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 473 *Lift High the Cross*

SENDING OUT

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Craig Phillips

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: Robert Wells, Parker Mantooth, W.E. Clark, Maggie Mantooth

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Lectors and Intercessors: Mark Chappell, Ashley Roseboro

Eucharistic Ministers: Morgan Chappell, Callie Dietz, Mary Dietz

Ushers/Greeters: Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell,

Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

Flower Guild: Betsy Cannon, Mary Martin Mitchell

Flower Delivery Team: Emmi Harrell, Tracey Campbell

Videographer: Sam Collier

Instrumentalists: David Simpson, *basoon*; Bob Hoit, *clarinet*

Today's Altar flowers are given in honor of the children of St. John's.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, John Durr, Dave Funk, Mac Gipson,

Seibels Marshall, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory,

Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cam Napier, Bud Nason,

Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Nan Rosa, Barbara Wallace,

Barbara Wells

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,

Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Michael Finnen, Roger Jobe, Seeley Lewis,

Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Samantha and Hunter Rodgers, Pam Slate,

Ron Skoneki, Madera Spencer, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas,

Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

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, Mary Helen Mahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Peace in Our Time Prayer Service This Afternoon

On Sept. 29, St. John's will hold the next in a series of short prayer services for our nation in person and online. Where else can we go in these troubled times but to our source of peace? All are invited to this service, so help spread the word. Learn more by scanning this QR code:



Wednesday Night Teaching Series Starts Oct. 2

Mark your calendar for a new Wednesday Night Teaching Series at St. John's! Throughout the month of October, come enjoy dinner and discussion centered on how to "do" politics well as a Christian.

Oct. 2 - You're Invited to "The Party!"

Oct. 9 - The Combatant and The Exhausted

Oct. 16 - The Cynic and The True Disciple

Oct. 23 - The After Party

Dinner at 6, teaching and discussion start at 6:30. Children's curriculum and nursery will be provided.



EYC is back!

Our Episcopal Youth will meet today at 5:30 p.m. on the third floor here at St. John's. All 6th-12th graders are welcome!

Ministry Signups Still Open

Did you miss the Ministry Fair on Sept. 8 but are still interested in serving? It's not too late! There are many wonderful opportunities at St. John's where you can use your own unique talents and gifts. Scan this QR code to see all the ways you can get involved.



Coming in October: Blessing of the Animals & Trunk or Treat!

Mark your calendars for two fun events coming up in October at St. John's! Our annual Blessing of the Animals event, always a favorite in the community, is planned for Oct. 6. Then on Oct. 30, kids can come enjoy candy, games and more at our Trunk or Treat event. We hope you will join us and invite a friend!

Heavenly Hosts Dinner Oct. 8

Adults covered dish supper Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 6-8 p.m. Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Steve and Mary Hughes. Soft drinks will be provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.