



# St. John's Episcopal Church

September 8, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

## The Sixteenth 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** *Tierce en taille (Suite on the Magnificat)* Jean-Adam Guilain  
*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* Robert Powell

**THE OPENING HYMN** 518 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE SALUTATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

*Reader*               The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 146

*Sung by the choir.*

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- <sup>2</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.
- <sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- <sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- <sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- <sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- <sup>9</sup>The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: James 1:10, 14-17

A Reading from the Letter of James.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*Reader*                    The Word of the Lord.  
*People*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN 567** *Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old*                    *All stand.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*Priest*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People*    **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

*Priest*                    The Gospel of our Lord.  
*People*                    **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON**                    The Rev Dr Duncan Johnston                    *All sit.*

## THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

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

*All kneel as able.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop Glenda, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President Joseph, our Governor Kay, our Mayor Stephen, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially ... let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially those in whose memory the altar flowers have been given ... and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation ... let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of John and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* *Sung by choir.*

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in the word and in deed express.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

## 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*

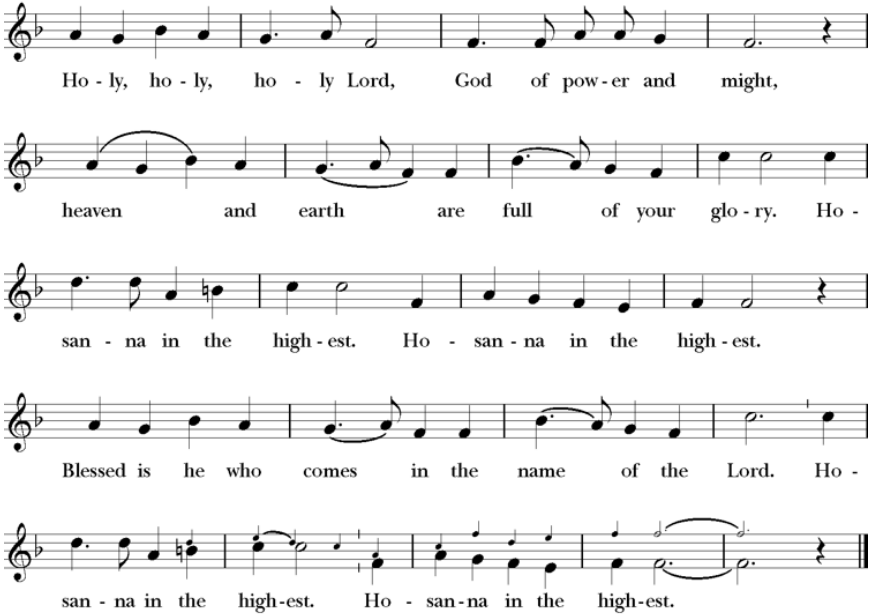
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*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 now, and invest your lives in the works of faith.  
Fulfill God's holy law by eagerly putting love into action.  
And may God the Father be your defender and provider;  
May God the Son dispel all that disturbs or disables you;  
and may God the Holy Spirit make you loving and merciful in action.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 556** *Rejoice, ye pure in Heart* Stanzas 1-5 only

## SENDING OUT

**Priest** Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**People** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata in Seven*

John Rutter

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ministry Fair Today at 9:15 in Parish Hall

Come meet ministry leaders and find the place you were meant to serve! A full list of ministries can be found by scanning this QR code:



### Today is Kickoff Sunday!

Today officially kicks off a new year of Sunday School (PreK3 through 5th grade)! Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 10:10 a.m. We will then celebrate with a Kickoff Picnic directly following the 10:30 service with water inflatables and a hot dog lunch. Visit the St. John's website for information on registering your child for Sunday School or nursery

### **Peace in Our Time Prayer Service This Afternoon**

This afternoon at 4 p.m., St. John's will hold a short prayer service 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. The next service is planned for Sept. 29. Learn more by scanning this QR code:



### **Heavenly Hosts Dinner Sept. 10**

Our next Heavenly Hosts dinner is scheduled for Sept. 10 from 6-8 p.m.! Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Betty & Houghton Smith. Soft drinks will be provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.

### **New Classes: "Skeletons in God's Closet" and "God and Caesar"**

Two new Sunday classes are planned to begin Sept. 15, Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Visit the St. John's website to learn more.

### **Soft Sensory Service Now Available Sunday Mornings**

The Soft Sensory Service is a more intimate gathering at 10:30 a.m. Sundays in the Library with lower lighting and volume to keep everyone at ease. For more info, email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org).

### **Next Organ Concert Sept. 22**

The next St. John's Organ Concert is planned for Sept. 22. Music list and schedules can be found at [stjohnsmontgomery.org](http://stjohnsmontgomery.org).

**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.



## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Clergy:** The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin

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

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Connie Tapia

**Acolytes:** Bobby Bradford, Nancy Bradford, Thomas Lawlor, W.E. Clark

**Altar Guild:** Libby Beck

**Lectors and Intercessors:** Nick Prillaman, Ashley Roseboro

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Virginia Banister, Tracey Campbell, William Haynes

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Melissa Carter, Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

**Flower Guild:** Betty Beale, Amy Marshall

**Flower Delivery Team:** Maria Pacheco, Anne & Reggie Hamner, Allison Prillaman

**Videographer:** Scott Mitchell

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

**Altar Flowers are given in memory of:** Jeanne Stockner Brunschwyler, Richard Grant Brunschwyler, Rosemary Brunschwyler Kenney, Sarah McDonald Armstrong, George Luther Armstrong, Jr., Sarah Katharine Brooks, Patrick Allen Thomason, Lisa Marie Brunschwyler

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

Laura Brendle, John Durr, Dave Funk, Mac Gipson, Will Hamlett, 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 Mayhan