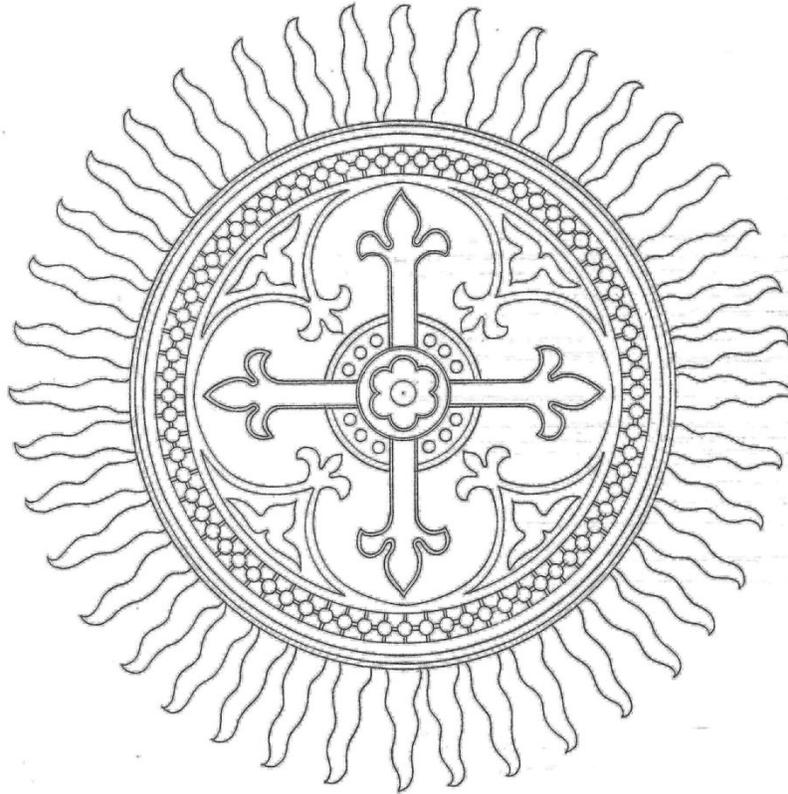


# St. John's Episcopal Church

Montgomery, Alabama



## Clergy

The Rev. John P. Leach, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal, Priest Associate

## The Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

### November 8, 2020

### Rite Two

#### A Note to Guests and Newcomers to the Episcopal Church

*Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today.*

*In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion from the Lord's Table. If you have not been baptized and would like to learn more about this sacrament, please contact one of the clergy. 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. Guests are expected and welcome! For your convenience, we offer Nursery Care for children 3 years old and younger. The nursery is located through doors on the front right of the church, and at the end of the hall on your right. Also, children's activity bags are available in the narthex and in the main hallway*

## Opening Voluntaries

# The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

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 following is sung by vocalists, all standing*

*Glory to God in the highest,*

*and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,*

*almighty God and Father,*

*we worship you, we give you thanks,*

*we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,*

*Lord God, Lamb of God,*

*you take away the sin of the world:*

*have mercy on us;*

*you are seated at the right hand of the Father:*

*receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,*

*you alone are the Lord,*

*you alone are the Most High,*

*Jesus Christ,*

*with the Holy Spirit,*

*in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

*People*                **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Lessons

## The First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

*The people sit.*

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,  
and concern for instruction is love of her,  
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,  
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,  
and immortality brings one near to God;  
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 70

*Remain seated. The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \*  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

**2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed  
and altogether dismayed; \*  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*  
because they are ashamed.

**4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \*  
let those who love your salvation say for ever,  
"Great is the LORD!"**

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; \*  
come to me speedily, O God.

**6 You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
O LORD, do not tarry.**

*At this time children are invited to join the procession to the Children's Chapel.*

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

*All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the

other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon:** The Rev. John P. Leach

**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**

*Kneeling as you are able.*

We pray for all bishops and ministers, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

We pray for all public officials, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

We pray for \_\_\_\_\_.

We pray for those who are sick, especially \_\_\_\_\_.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*The Priest stands and says*

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.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please keep appropriate social distancing.*

## **The Holy Communion**

*The celebrant will say an offertory sentence.*

*The people may sit while the altar is being prepared.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The People 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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

*Sung by vocalists*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*The People stand or kneel.*

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.**

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**

*The following fraction anthem will be sung by vocalists.*

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*The Celebrant says*

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.

*Ushers will direct members of the congregation to the altar.*

*The bread will be given to the communicants with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

Anthem at Communion *Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us (Cantata 140)* Johann Sebastian Bach

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People say together, kneeling as you are able*

**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**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand as the clergy depart.*

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant*

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*

Paul Manz

## **Announcements**

### **“Liturgy: The Work of the People”: Class #5 Preaching**

**Led by: The Rev. Dr. Deonna Neal**

**Wednesday, November 11th at 6.30 pm via Zoom**

This upcoming week’s class will focus on the relationship of preaching to the liturgy. Deonna and John will discuss how their authority to preach is derived, the responsibility that comes with it, as well as how they approach this aspect of their ministry.

### **EYC Lunch**

Today the EYC will walk over to Mellow Mushroom for lunch after the 10:30 am service. All teenagers are welcome!

### **The Nursery is now open!**

We offer childcare for children ages 3 and younger during the 7:30 and 10:30 am services. Email [sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org) with questions.

### **The Heart of God in the Heart of Montgomery**

Please look for a letter and pledge card to arrive this weekend. We are excited about this year’s ministry priorities and look forward to you joining others in the faithful work of responding to God’s call. We ask that you return your pledge card by mail or in person by November 8, 2020. More information can be found on our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsMontgomery>.

### **Keeping Pledges Current**

During this time in which St. John’s is still operating in a limited capacity our expenses continue. You can mail your offerings in using your pledge envelopes and adding a stamp. You also can use Bill Pay through your bank or instruct your bank to do an automatic draft. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in your stewardship.

## **Today's Servers**

### **7:30 a.m.**

**Lector:** Will Hill Tankersley

**Greeters/Ushers:** Virginia Banister

### **10:30 a.m.**

**Lector:** Tracey Campbell

**Intercessor:** Mark Chappell

**Children's Chapel:** Sarah Collier

**Greeters/Ushers:** Jimmy McLemore, Katie Keller, Mary-Nelm Parsons, Todd Westhauser

**Musicians in today's service:** Shane Nishibun, *tenor*; Robby Gibson, *guitar*; Yu Wang, *violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*

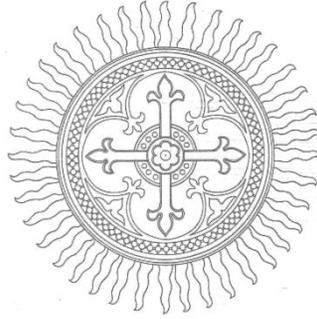
## **Joy and Concern**

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Ann Carol Coleman, Bonner Engelhardt, Karen Jarrell, Caroline Majors, Christopher Marshall, Joe McGough, Marilyn Pickett, Caroline Clark Calhoun Serrato, Sarah Stone, George Wakefield, Caroline Lawson, Scott Simmons

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Betsy Arnold, Dottie Campbell, Margaret Carlson, Raye Gregory, Pee Wee Kohn, Diane Kuehndorf, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Al Perkins, Lavada Spears Persons, Ernie Reddick, Mark Wimble, Russ Lawson.

*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 if the name listed needs to be included longer.*



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama**

The Right Reverend John McKee Sloan, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Right Reverend Dr. Glenda S. Curry, *Bishop Coadjutor*

The Rev. John P. Leach, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal, *Priest Associate*

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

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

Joleen George, *Director of Youth Ministries and Parish Communications*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*

Mike Jarrell, *Maintenance Superintendent*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Staff*

Judson George, *Maintenance Staff*

Vestry and Officers

Jimmy McLemore, *Senior Warden*

Radney Ramsey, *Junior Warden*

Helen Wells, *Treasurer*

Phillip Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

Todd Westhauser, Stephanie Norrell, Mike Jenkins,

Kat Dailey, Virginia Banister, Richard Bradford,

Emily Wise, Nick Prillaman, Mary Nelms Parsons,

Katie Keller, Will Gunter, John Carter,

Will Hill Tankersley, Dudley Perry, Scott Mitchell,

JR Marshall, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, Betsy Cannon