



St. John's Episcopal Church

February 18th, 2024, 10:30am

First Sunday in Lent

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 I)

PRELUDE *Grave & Adagio (Sonata II)*

Felix Mendelssohn

The Service today begins with the Great Litany.

Please kneel.

THE GREAT LITANY (HYMNAL S67/BCP 148)

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;

People **His mercy endures forever.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

Sung by choir.

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

THE EPISTLE: 1 PETER 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 641 *Lord Jesus, think on me*

THE GOSPEL: MARK 1:9-15

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O 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 PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people stand to sing.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 143 *The glory of these forty days*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER I)

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty,

everlasting God, Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel as able.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word

and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

The Celebrant and people say together

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Priest: "Bow down before the Lord."

The people continue to kneel and the Celebrant says the following prayer:

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice forever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 441 *In the cross of Christ I glory*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in e minor*

J.S. Bach

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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: J.M. Longshore, Susannah Miller, Parker Mantooth,

Lawton McCollum, Maggie Mantooth

Lector and Intercessor: Tracey Campbell, Maria Pacheco

Eucharistic Ministers: Rich Anderson, Morgan Chappell, Callie Dietz

Ushers/Greeters: Keith Miller, Christy Anderson, Liam McMullan,

Mary Martin Mitchell

Altar Guild: Libby Beck

Flower Guild: Josie Eskridge, Betsy Cannon

Flower Delivery Team: Melissa Carter, Doris Ball

Videographer: Jim Cannon

Instrumentalists Robert Scott, *flute*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; David Simpson, *basoon*.

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Dr. Doy Leale McCall, Jr.,

Margaret Thorington Kohn, John Peter Kohn, Jr., Susie Rebecca Harris,

Margaret Thorington Kohn McCall, Daniel Phillips Carr,

Anne Ross Dee Carr

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, Bob Hill, Carma Marks, Eddie McDowell,

Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Richard McCrory, Ethan Tapia,

Barbara Wells, Larry Worrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,

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

Maureen McCloskey, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki,

Chandler Taylor, Joe Wendel, Frank Winkler, Patti Worrilow

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 February: Cindy Seibels, Florence Tyson,

Margaret Ann Selman, Anne Hamner, Susan Harris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Teaching Series: Legacy: What are you leaving? This Lent please join us at 6pm for dinner and presentations on aspects of end-of-life planning. We'll be joined by experts in their field who will lead us more deeply into practical ways we can show our love for the people we leave behind. Topics include Faith and Funerals, End-of-life Medical Care, Ethical Wills, Financial matters, and Legal Matters.

Children's Lenten Series: Wild Willy's Candy Factory: A new look at the prodigal son. K-6th Children will meet with Sarah immediately following dinner. Modified program will be available in the nursery for Pre-K and toddlers.

2024 Pledge: Please remember to fill out your 2024 pledge card. If you do not have one, you may ask a vestry member, or call or email the office. We are 93% of the way there. We have received \$1,196,620.50 and have \$98,505.57 outstanding.

Revelation Winter Bible Study: Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library, join Deonna for a Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will use the book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce Metzger. Books will be available in the bookstore (\$15) or can be purchased online.

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course- Duncan is currently leading an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. in the Archives. Please email duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

Laptops for Honduras: The Diocese is collecting laptops to send to Honduras. Laptops must turn on and passwords should be removed or noted on the device. Please wipe the hard drive if possible. Devices can be left at the church office.



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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 24th Palm Sunday. Normal schedule.

March 25th Holy Monday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 26th Holy Tuesday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 27th Holy Wednesday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 28th Maundy Thursday. Eucharist Rite 1, 6pm in the Church.

March 29th Good Friday. Worship, 12:05pm in the Church.

March 31st Easter Day. Eucharist Rite 1, 7:00 in the Church.

Eucharist, 9:00 in the Church, followed by Easter Egg Hunt.

Eucharist Rite 2, 11:00 in the Church.



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*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Constance Rodgers, *Director of Communications*

Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Superintendent*

Vestry and Officers

Margaret Ann Selman, *Senior Warden*

Keith Miller, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

Class of 2024

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

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchel, Chuck Ocheltree
Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

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Text to Give: You now have an additional way to give at St. John's. Whether it's a pledge payment, a memorial, or any other type of payment, you can text "stjohnsmgm" to 833-251-1449.