



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO

10:30 am • September 27, 2020

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. Jamie L. Osborne, *Associate 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*
Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*
Libby Poole, *Financial Administrator*
Mike Jarrell, *Maintenance Superintendent*
Myron Smoke, *Custodial Staff*
Judson George, *Custodial 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, Jr., Dudley Perry Scott Mitchell
JR Marshall, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, Betsy Cannon

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalm 122:1*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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 alone 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 Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Except in Lent, add **Alleluia.**

Jubilate *Psalm 100* (sung by choir)

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

The Psalm 25:1-8 (in unison)

1To 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.
2Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
3Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
4Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
5Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
6Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
7Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
8He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Announcements

Rector's Forum , Sundays at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Transition to Transformation

For the remaining Sundays in September, John will lead a discussion on sharing the Good News in the midst of a transition. The series will begin with a chance to learn more about John, and then will consider how transitions may include nudges from the Holy Spirit.

September 27 - Do not be afraid. Follow me. (Things Jesus says)

EYC GAME NIGHT Tonight 5:00-6:30

All teenagers are welcome to join us for a fun game night. We will be outside and dinner is not provided. Please bring your own water bottle.

Vocation

Led by The Rev. Jamie Osborne
Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm via Zoom, Sept 16-Oct 7

Vocation has typically been thought of as a call to religious life, but the truth is each of us is called to live for God in a particular way. What am I supposed to do with my life? How do we find out what our vocation is? Can we have more than one? What do we do if we feel we have missed our vocation?

This course will be a collection of interviews with four individuals with different vocations. We will explore the idea of vocation and see how unique and particular they can be for individual lives. We will gain insights for our own lives through the experiences of the following individuals:

Sept 30 - Jason Stewart Sierra - Management Consultant
Oct 7 - Sister Hannah - Episcopal Nun

This course will be a four-part series on Wednesday nights via zoom and Facebook Live. Recordings will be made available on Youtube. Please email jamie@stjohnsmontgomery.org if you'd like to register for the Zoom meetings.

Keeping Pledges Current

During the time in which St. John's is closed to group gatherings and public worship, 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.

Blessings of the Animals Sunday, October 4 at 5pm in the Labryinth

Bring your large or small, furry or scaled, cuddly or slimy pets to the Blessing of the Animals. We will meet in the Labryinth garden at 5pm on October 4th. The Montgomery Zoo will be there with some of their animals, and all animals will receive a St. Francis of Assisi medal. We also request that you bring old towels and newspapers that will be donated to the Montgomery Humane shelter

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.***

Blessing

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? 3“As I live,” says the Lord God, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

25Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

30Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord God. “Turn, then, and live.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Answer **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary *Magnificat (sung by vocalists)*

Luke 1:46-55

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Matthew 21:23-32

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

The Sermon - The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal

Canticle 20: Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis (sung by vocalists)*

*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 Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

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

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R. **And grant us thy salvation.**
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

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.