



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, May 21st, 2023, 10.30am

The Seventh Sunday of Easter:  
The Sunday after Ascension

*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**      *Allegro (Trio in G)*      Johann Sebastian Bach  
                                 *There Is a Happy Land*      George Shearing

**THE OPENING HYMN** 494 *Crown him with many crowns*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*p. 355*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*      **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*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 GLORIA

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-  
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,  
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

*All sit.*

### THE FIRST LESSON: ACTS 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

### PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

*Sung by soloist.*

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*

let those who hate him flee before him.

- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the  
presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
YAHWEH is his name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into  
freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai\*.  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

### **THE EPISTLE: 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares

for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN 215** *See the conqueror mounts in triumph*

**THE GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11**

*All stand*

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Dr. Deonna Neal

*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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

*All kneel as able.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, and Duncan and Deonna our priests, and all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*Priest and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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 people stand to greet one another.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.*

Offertory Anthem *As Newborn Stars Were Stirred to Song* John Karl Hirten

*All stand to sing the Offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

*All stand.* p.361

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up 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 your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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:

## THE SANCTUS (S128)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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 they are able*

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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*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.

*The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:*

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

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.*

*Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*All kneel as they are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*All kneel.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people*

Go out into the world, and in your words and in your lives bear witness to the Christ who has ascended to be everywhere present. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN 214** *Hail the day that sees him rise*

## THE DISMISSAL

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

**THE POSTLUDE** *Prelude (Te Deum)* Marc-Antoine Charpentier

## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Acolytes:** Bobby Eskridge, Anne Frances Little, Lawton McCollum, J.M. Longshore, Sarah Johnston

**Lector and Intercessor:** Mary Hughes, Ashley Hamlett

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kat Dailey, J.R. Marshall, Dudley Perry

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Dustin Holmes, Catherine McLemore, Allison Prillaman, Josie Eskridge

**Altar Guild:** Melissa Carter, Debbie Schremser

**Flower Guild:** Caroline Lawson, Laura McLemore

**Flower Delivery Team:** Melissa Carter, Will Gunter, Doris Ball

**Videographer:** Jim Cannon

**Instrumentalists:** Robert Scott & Justin Hardin, *flutes*;

David Simpson, *bassoon*.

**Altar Flowers given in memory of:** Grover Keyton, Lucille Bush Keyton, Dr. Charles Lewis Marks, Priscilla Scott Marks, Henry Churchill Marks, Frances (Kitty) Keyton Marks, Mary Emily Keyton, Eloise Virgin, William Virgin, Jennie Wadsworth Virgin, Ira Virgin, LeGrand Stakely, Davis Stakely, Libby Stakely, John H. Nichols, Eloise Nichols.

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

Bill Bowman, Bob Hill, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Evelyn Sherbert, Marguerite Wood, Larry Worriow.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:**

Gigi Boyd, Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA), Wilber Hill Jr. (VA), Ashley Freeman, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor.

*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 May:**

Kitty Coleman, Betty Mathews, Mary Simmons, Mary Ward Wisnewski.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**For Whom the Bell Tolls:** On Memorial Day (May 29<sup>th</sup>) at 12:00 PM, we will be ringing the Church bell in honor of our departed Service members. If you would like to request a name be added to the list, please email the name, highest rank achieved, related conflict and year of death, along with your contact information to [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org). Please indicate if you would like to ring the bell personally or have us ring it for you. Please send by Monday May 22, 2023.

**Anger and Meekness: Spiritual Insights.** Deonna is leading a course exploring anger and meekness through the spiritual teachings of the 4th century desert monastic and ascetic Evagrius Ponticus. The course uses the book *Dragon's Wine and Angels Bread* by Gabriel Bunge. The course continues through June 25th. The book can be purchased in the bookstore or online.

**Summer Sermon Series: From Eden to Egypt.** This summer the Old Testament readings will come from the books of Genesis and Exodus. Each week, beginning Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will read an episode of a grand and inspiring story. We will hear of heroes and villains, patriarchs and matriarchs, sinners and saints. We'll see God's hand at work in happy circumstances, and tragic. Then we will learn from Duncan and Deonna as they preach about these Old Testament characters. We will see what lessons these ancient personalities can teach us and discover how we can live more faithful Christian lives. Join us every Sunday at 7:30 and 10:30am or on YouTube and Facebook at any time.

**Meals on Wheels:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, starting in May. St. John's will be partnering with MACOA to deliver meals to Seniors. Ride along training available. Email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org).

**Mercy House:** Volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM -1:00 P.M each Thursday to serve hot meals at Mercy House. Mercy House is a day shelter serving West Montgomery by providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities and laundry facilities. For questions of more information please contact Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989.

**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.