

# THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

### THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence.*

**Prelude**      **Pastorale in F Major, BWV 590**  
Mvt. 1 & 2

**J. S. Bach**

*All rise at the sound of the church bell.*

**Hymn 9, standing**      **Not here for high and holy things**

**MORNING SONG**

*Presider*      Blessed be our God.

*People*      **For ever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

**Glorv to God S-278**      *Gloria in excelsis*

**W. Mathias**

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.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*You may be seated.*

### The First Lesson: Genesis 33:1-17

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, 'Who are these with you?' Jacob said, 'The children whom God has graciously given your servant.' Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, 'What do you mean by all this company that I met?' Jacob answered, 'To find favour with my lord.' But Esau said, 'I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.' Jacob said, 'No, please; if I find favour with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favour. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.' So he urged him, and he took it. Then Esau said, 'Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you.' But Jacob said to him, 'My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are

nursing, are a care to me; and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.' So Esau said, 'Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.' But he said, 'Why should my lord be so kind to me?' So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house, and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Confitemini Domino*

S. Elvey



- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; \*  
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; \*  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, \*  
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering \*  
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, \*  
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, \*  
so the river ran in the dry places.
- 42 For God remembered his holy word \*  
and Abraham his servant.
- †43 So he led forth his people with gladness, \*  
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, \*  
and they took the fruit of others' toil.
- 45 That they might keep his statutes \*  
and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

**The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30**

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

**Hymn 482, standing Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy**

**SLANE**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16, standing**

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

*Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed, *standing***

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 worshipped 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.

**Prayers of the People, *standing***

*Intercessor* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;  
*People* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

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

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

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

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

*Intercessor* For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura, our Bishops and Kate, our Priest; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Intercessor* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble, especially Charlie Alford, Kathy Arthur, Bill Bevan, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Bix Dupont, David Evangelisti, Robert Gabelman, Nancy Gould, Glenn Jacobsen, Yolanda Lowe, Chris Miller, Ann Parko, Joan Squelia, Donna Stutts, Kathy Wesch, Patty Yale and those we now name either silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Silence may be kept.*

Lord, we pray;  
*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
Hear us, Lord;  
*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Intercessor* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*The People add their own thanksgivings*

*Intercessor* We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died, especially Lyndsay Eno and Kim Bronte Rigler, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*The People add their own petitions*

*Intercessor* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*Presider* Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask:  
Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.*

*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.

*Presider* 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, standing**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you!

*People* **And also with you!**

*Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

**Offertory Sentence**

*Presider* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.*

**Anthem** Nimm, was dein ist, und gehe hin, BWV 144

**J.S. Bach**

**Presentation, standing**

*The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 3, Enriching Our Worship**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You

laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S-128

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

W. Mathias

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.

*The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the



fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

*Presider* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**The Lord's Prayer, said by all**

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.

### Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-166

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

G. Near



### The Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

**Hymn 659    O Master, let me walk with thee**

**DE TAR**

**Postcommunion Prayer, *standing***

*Presider*        Let us pray.

*People*            **God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, *as requested***

*Presider*        In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People*            **We, who are many, are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.**

**Blessing, *standing***

*Presider*        Let us depart from this place in peace, and as we go on our way, forget not those who are poor, pray for those who are sick, make no peace with oppression, and love one another in God as Christ has loved us, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn 541, *standing*    Come, labor on**

**ORA LABORA**

**The Dismissal, *standing***

*Presider*        Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

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

**Postlude        Fugue in F Major, BWV 556**

**J. S. Bach**

**Altar Flowers**

Today's Altar flowers are given by Kevin & Tika Walsh, in honor of their 26th wedding anniversary.

## A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

Let's go on this adventure together and each of you will be able to choose how you want to participate.

Below are a few ways in which you may participate. You may choose one or all of the options.

- Follow the One-Year Reading Plan (10-30 minutes/day)
- Attend a weekly Study Group
  - Tuesday Mornings 10-11AM, Parish Hall beginning on September 12th*
  - Tuesday Evenings 5:30 PM, Parish Hall*
  - Epiphany/St. John's Group, Thursdays on Zoom from 2-3 PM beginning on September 14th*
- Use the Bible Project App/ website for personal study: <https://bibleproject.com/>
- Attend church and hear the Bible preached upon chronologically from Genesis to Revelation throughout the year.

To learn more about our program, reading plan, and Bible recommendations, please visit the church entrance or email the parish office at [chelsea@stjohnsssex.org](mailto:chelsea@stjohnsssex.org).

## FALL FORUMS

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

#### **A Year In The Bible: Old Testament Overview** **9:15-10:00 AM, Parish Hall**

How many different literary styles are in the Bible? How do we read and interpret the Ancient Jewish Meditation Literature in the Old Testament? Come to this forum and learn more about strategies for reading the Old Testament as we continue our journey through the Pentateuch.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

#### **Financially Supporting St. John's: Questions to Ask your Financial Advisor** **9:00-10:00 AM, Parish Hall Led by Patrick Gingras**

Patrick Gingras, parishioner at St. John's, is the Regional President and Senior Managing Director of MAI Capital. In this forum, Patrick will talk about various ways one can financially support the church or other non-profits. There are many ways people can donate beyond a cash donation especially as one gets older, things like stock transfers, gifts from trusts, and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. You will leave this forum with helpful questions to ask your own Financial Advisor as you prayerfully consider how best to share from God's abundant blessings in your life.

## ST. JOHN'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND (APRIL 2-14, 2024)

4 SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

Please email or call the Parish Office with questions, to request more information, or to make a deposit.

**CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*  
 Chelsea DiDonato, *Parish Administrator & Communications Director*  
 Anthony Pandolfe, Jr., *Director of Music*  
 Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching*  
 Christina Rutland, *Seminarian Intern*  
 Manuel Matute, *Sexton*  
 Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Allison Fresher, *Liturgical Coordinator & Serving Ministry*  
 Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*  
 Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*  
 Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS**

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*  
 Mary Bowers & Paulette Rider, *Rummage Sale*  
 Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*  
 Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*  
 Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*  
 Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*  
 Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

**YEAR OF THE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

Tuesday Mornings 10:00-11:00 AM, Parish Hall  
 Tuesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 PM, Parish Hall  
 Thursdays (Zoom) 2:00-3:00 PM, Epiphany and St. John's Group

**OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Mary Bowers	<i>Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries</i>
David Evangelisti	<i>Middlesex Habitat for Humanity</i>
Ed Shyloski & Charlie Walden	<i>Ministry to Veterans and Active Military Personal</i>
Jenifer Grant	<i>Sister Cities Essex Haiti</i>
Jim Myslik	<i>The Witness Stones Project</i>
Karen van der Horst	<i>Nursing Ministry</i>
Rhode van Gessel	<i>A Sacred Place</i>

**VESTRY**

Dan Evangelisti, *Warden*; Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Nat Eddy, Sandy Loether, Jim Myslik, Stephanie Patterson, Ellen Pfarr, Patti Pickering, Patricia Pittsinger, Rob van der Horst

**Serving Today at 10:15 A.M.**

Organist & Choir Director	Anthony Pandolfe, Jr.
Liturgical Coordinator & Verger	Allison Fresher
Ushers & Greeters	Ernie Brainard & Brian Fresher
Lector	Phred Mileski
Crucifer	Deborah Jones
Eucharistic Minister & Intercessor	Deborah Jones
Videographer	Allison Fresher
Altar Guild	Stephanie Patterson
Counters	Rob van der Horst and Brian Fresher
Seminarian Intern	Christina Rutland
Intern for Liturgy & Preaching	Mairi Graham-Shaw
Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

**WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES**

**SUNDAYS** | Holy Eucharist — 8 & 10:15 AM  
 "Come As You Are" Worship Service — 5 PM  
**TUESDAYS** | Bible Study — 10:00 AM/5:30 PM  
**THURSDAYS** | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM  
**WEDNESDAYS** | Morning Prayer — 10 AM

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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