

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We are glad you have joined us today. Everything you need is in this leaflet or the blue Hymnal 1982 found in the pew. We invite you to prepare for worship in silent prayer during the prelude, and we encourage you to participate throughout this liturgy in singing the hymns and service music and saying the portions in bold type. Prompts are provided for you to stand, sit, or kneel where appropriate and as you are able.

Prelude

In Classical Style

Gordon Young

Welcome and Announcements, seated

All rise at the sound of the bell.

Hymn 440

"Blessed Jesus, at thy word"

Liebster Jesu

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People

And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. 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.**

Glory to God S-280 *Gloria in excelsis*

R. Powell

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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

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

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
 and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
 the one shall be stronger than the other,
 the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:105-112 *Lucerna pedibus meis*

Read responsively

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.

**106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.**

107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

**108 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.**

109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.

**110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

**112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who

raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence: Hymn 505

“O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God”

O Heiliger Geist

standing as able

The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

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

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas

Silence for reflection.

The Nicene Creed, *standing as able*

**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.**

Prayers of the People

As children of God, led by the Spirit, let us pray for the needs, hopes, and concerns of the world.

For peace from on high and for our salvation,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For this holy gathering and for those who worship with faith, reverence, and praise of God,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Sean, our presiding bishop; Jeff and Laura, our bishops; for priests, deacons, and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all those in need, the suffering and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the sick and those who have asked our prayers, those on our parish prayers list, and those we now name silently or aloud...we pray,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For those who have died, especially those we now name silently or aloud...we pray,
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
To you, O Lord.

Celebrant:

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those we have asked aloud and those we hold in our hearts, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand, kneel, or sit 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.**

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 Peace, *standing as able*

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

People **And also with you.**

*The ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.
You may be seated following the exchange of the Peace.*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Hymn 589

“Almighty God, your word is cast”

Walden

You may remain seated.

Presentation

*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 A

Standing as able

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-129

Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Powell

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.

The people may remain standing or you may kneel or sit as is your preference.

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker and of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-163

Jesus, Lamb of God

R. Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant 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.

All are welcome at God's table no matter where you are in your walk with Christ. If you need gluten-free bread, simply ask the priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing, indicate that by crossing your hands over your chest when you come to the altar rail. The first chalice following the bread is for you to drink the wine. The second is if you choose to dip (or intinct) the wafer in the wine. If you are unable to come forward for any reason, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 530

"Spread, O spread, thou mighty word"

Gott Sei Dank

Prayer after Communion, *standing as able*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

Hymn 593

"Lord, make us servants go your peace"

Dickinson College

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata in C

Heinrich Scheidemann

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The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill Lowe, by Yolanda Lowe.

St. John's Prayer List

Holding each other's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice that characterizes our life together at St. John's. In our worship services, we pray each other's prayers together. Outside of our time together many parishioners make it part of their daily lives to pray the prayers of the parish community. You are invited to participate in your own way.

Thanks be to God

for times of rest and refreshment;
for the ministry of the Mission and Justice Committee and all who serve on it;
for those discerning a call to serve this community more deeply;
for the generosity of this congregation in pledging and giving;
for all the blessings of our lives, and for the faith, fellowship, and ministries of this parish.

Your prayers are requested

for the people of Venezuela as they recover from the devastating earthquakes;
for a resolution to the spread of Ebola in Central Africa;
for an end to the war in Iran;
for a path to sustained peace in Israel, Palestine, Russia, and Ukraine;
for an end to political and hate-fueled violence in our public spaces;
for the elected leaders of the United States that they will govern with wisdom, compassion, and concern for the poor and outcast;
for lasting peace to come to areas of violence in our world, especially Sudan, Nigeria, and Congo;
for an end to gun violence in this country and the courage for each of us to work toward that;
for all LGBTQI+ people who face bias and violence each and every day;
for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble, including Eileen Aiken, Ed Birch, Reginald Brulotte, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, JoAnne Connor, Bea Comstock, Tony Custodio, Evelyn, Sherley Fergusson, Nancy Gould, Ethel, Julia, and Jim Gribbins, Hazel, Erin Kraten, Dorothy Rider, Dione Solan, Gary Young, Jean Shaw, Nancy, and Mel Chaney, Ken, Benjamin, Chris Woodside, Carrey Wing, and Suzannah;

Please note that any names on the prayer list will remain for a period of one month. At the end of each calendar month, the list will be cleared. If you would like to continue to have a name on the list, please contact the office after the first of the month.

for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, including St. James', Poquetanuck; Christ Church, Redding; St. Stephen's, Ridgefield;
for the Anglican Communion, including the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

We commend to God's never-failing care

those who have died, remembering especially Carolyn Timmerman; those killed in the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela; the dead in the Ebola outbreak; the civilians and military personnel who have died in wars around the world; the dead in the ongoing violence in Sudan, Congo, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza; in gun violence around this country; those who are dying in climate-related disasters; immigrants who have died seeking a better life; and for U.S. civilians and service personnel who have died in the line of duty;

and all whom we love but see no more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday Bible Study is going on hiatus for the remainder of the summer. We completed our study of the Gospel of Luke and decided to wait until September before diving into the last Gospel according to John. Plan to join us then!

Holy Eucharist continues on Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. in the chancel (choir area) of the church.

Supper Church Today!

Join us as we gather at 4:30 p.m. for our *Second Sundays*, with food, fellowship and a family-friendly celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Summer Ecumenical Service ~ Sunday July 26 at 10:00 a.m.

St. John's and the churches of Essex will gather on the town green for our annual Jazz Mass on the Grass. If you are so inclined, you are welcome to bring some tea, lemonade, or cookies to share following the service. Bring a chair and bring a friend!

A collection of non-perishable food items will also be taken for the **Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries**.

Westbrook Food Pantry Needs

Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for our neighbors at the Westbrook Food Pantry. Donations are collected each Sunday after morning services.

For one more week we will collect **cereal and vegetables**.

Bill's Blessings

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our parishioners, we continue to provide basic necessities to our Soup Kitchen guests.

For one more week we will collect **dish soap**.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, *Rector*
elaine@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x.12

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*
anthony@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x.17

Meghan Wrinn, *Parish Administrator*
meghan@stjohnsessex.org/860.767.8095

Manuel Matute, *Sexton*

Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Mary Bowers, *Bill's Blessings & Soup Kitchen Ministry*

Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*

Sandy Loether, *Newcomers Committee*

Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*

Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*

Kevin Walsh, *Mission and Justice Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*

John Rogers, *Treasurer*

treasurer@stjohnsessex.org

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*

Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Peter Holland, *Vestry Secretary*;
John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Pam duPont, Chip Goodrich,
Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 11:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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