

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 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

Prelude No. III in C

Arthur William Marchant
(1850-1921)

Welcome and Announcements, seated

All rise at the sound of the bell.

Opening Hymn 609

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

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

People

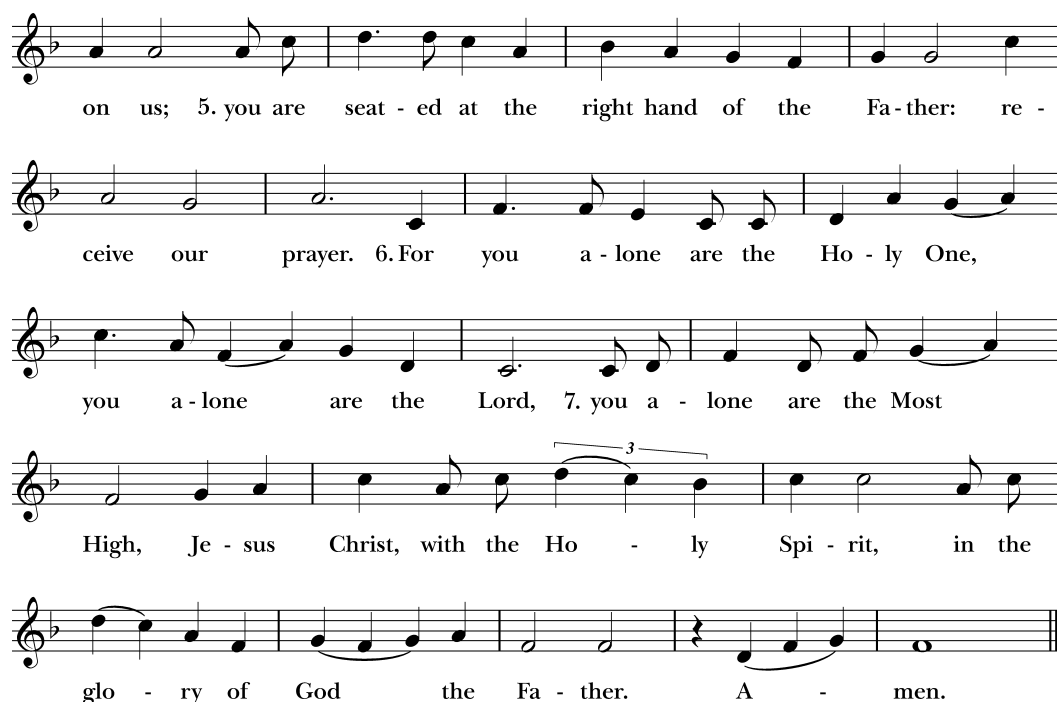
And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.

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



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.**
 Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 17:1-7,16 *Exaudi, Domine*

Read responsively

1 Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to my cry; *
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

**2 Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
let your eyes be fixed on justice.**

3 Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

**4 I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
I have heeded the words of your lips.**

5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.

**6 I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
incline your ear to me and hear my words.**

7 Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.

**16 But at my vindication I shall see your face; *
when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. **Amen.**

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 343

"Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless"

St. Agnes

Standing as able.

The Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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

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

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may

go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 WLP 761

"All who hunger gather gladly"

Holy Manna

You may remain seated.

1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers, seek - er, be a
3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is

is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring.
wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.

Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who

days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.

Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Holy Manna*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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."

Celebrant and People

The Celebrant continues

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.**

The Lord's Prayer, *said by all*

A period of silence is kept.

R. Powell

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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.

Healing prayers are offered in the baptistry. You may make your way there after receiving communion.

Communion Hymn 309 "O Food to pilgrims given" O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

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 460 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus". *Hyfrydol*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Voluntary Toccata in C-Major Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

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The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.

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 all who participated and attended our outdoor community worship last week;
for the prayer ministry and all who offer healing prayers;
for times of rest and refreshment;
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 areas of the world plagued by wildfires;
for the people of Japan 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 Furgueson, Nancy Gould, Ethel, Julia, and Jim Gribbins, Hazel, Erin Kraten, Dorothy Rider, Dione Solan, Gary Young, Jean Shaw, Nancy and Mel Chaney, Ken, Benjamin, 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 Good Shepherd/Immanuel St. James Chapel, Shelton; St. Paul's, Shelton; St. Alban's, Simsbury;
for the Anglican Communion, including the Province of Uganda.

We commend to God's never-failing care

those who have died, remembering especially Pedro Frigola Sr.; 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 on hiatus for the remainder of the summer.

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

Backpack Drive Starts Today!

Today marks the start of our Annual Backpack Drive. We invite you to take a card with the information you need and to generously help provide essential school supplies for the children in our community. Together, we can ensure that children have everything they need to succeed as they start another school year.

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 the next two weeks we will collect **fruit and tuna fish**.

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 the next two weeks we will collect **disposable razors**.

A Sacred Place is in need of baby supplies for the children born to women in the York Correctional Institution. Please drop any of the following into the bin in the Narthex:

0-3 month clothing, unisex pacifiers, infant books, baby rattles, baby memory books (keepsake), baby soap/shampoo, and size 1 diapers.

Rummage Sale - Volunteers Needed!

The Rummage Sale committee has already been hard at work preparing for our October 3rd sale. Our parish volunteers make this long-standing tradition a success. As of now, we are short on volunteers. You may be surprised how fun it is to work on this sale, and any time you can give is helpful.

Please contact Patti Pickering (pattipickering@comcast.net, 860 510-1916) or Yolanda Lowe (yolandalowe1@gmail.com, 860 463-5596) to sign up and help make our Rummage Sale a huge success.

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, Tony Custodio, Leigh
Dorrington, Pam duPont, Chip Goodrich, Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh

WORSHIP

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

TUESDAYS | Bible Study is on hiatus until September

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

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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