

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 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

Fanfare on *Mit Freuden Zart*

Brenda Portman
(b. 1980)

Welcome and Announcements, *seated*

All rise at the sound of the bell.

Opening Hymn 531

"O Spirit of the living God"

Melcombe

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.**
 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of

Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!*

Read responsively

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head ***
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon ***
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 706

Standing as able

“In your mercy, Lord, you called me”

Halton Holgate

The Gospel: Matthew 15: 10-28

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

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 408

"Sing praise to God who reigns above"

Mit Freuden Zart

You may remain seated during the singing of the hymn.

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."

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.

Communion Hymn 470

"There's a wideness in God's mercy"

Beecher

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 537

"Christ for the world we sing"

Moscow

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Postlude in d-minor WAB 126

Anton Bruckner
(1824-1896)

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The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for their 45th wedding anniversary, by Lois and Bill Bennett.

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 Pat Thompson and her dedication to local school students;
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 Cherie Powell and Steven Snyder as they prepare for their marriage at St. John's next week;
for the people of Colombia as they recover from this week's devastating earthquake;
for areas of the world plagued by wildfires, dangerous storms, and flooding;
for an end to the war in Iran;
for a path to sustained peace in Israel, Palestine, Russia, and Ukraine;
for the elected leaders of the United States that they will govern with wisdom, compassion, and concern for the poor and outcast;
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, Carrey Wing, Suzannah and Charlotte Meyer;

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 Wooster School, Danbury; Kent School, Kent; St. Thomas's Day School, New Haven;
for the Anglican Communion, including the Church in Wales.

We commend to God's never-failing care

those who have died, remembering especially the dead in the Colombian earthquake; 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.

The Backpack Drive continues!

Please sign up to fill a backpack for a local student who needs it to prepare for a successful school year. See Pat Thompson in the Narthex for all the information you need. The backpacks will be blessed next Sunday during both services.

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 **peanut butter and soup**.

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 **paper towels**.

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, 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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