

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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

Cantilène Religieuse

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

Welcome and Announcements, seated

All rise at the sound of the bell.

Opening Hymn 348

“Lord, we have come at your own invitation”

O Quanta Qualia

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free.

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-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-



The Collect of the Day

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sung by the Choir

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Alleluia

Alleluia from "Calvary Service"

Thomas Pavlechko

Standing as able



*Choral Verse: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
 I know them, and they follow me.*

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

At the conclusion of each petition, the intercessor says,

"God, Giver of life." The response is: Hear our prayer.

God of all creation, hear our prayers offered to you in sincerity and devotion. Forgive our wastefulness and indifference to the world around us, and give us hearts of gratitude as we dedicate ourselves anew to the restoration of the habitats of our local community and the planet on which we live. **Amen.**

People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

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The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 2

Standing as able

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

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

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



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-166

Jesus, Lamb of God

G. Near



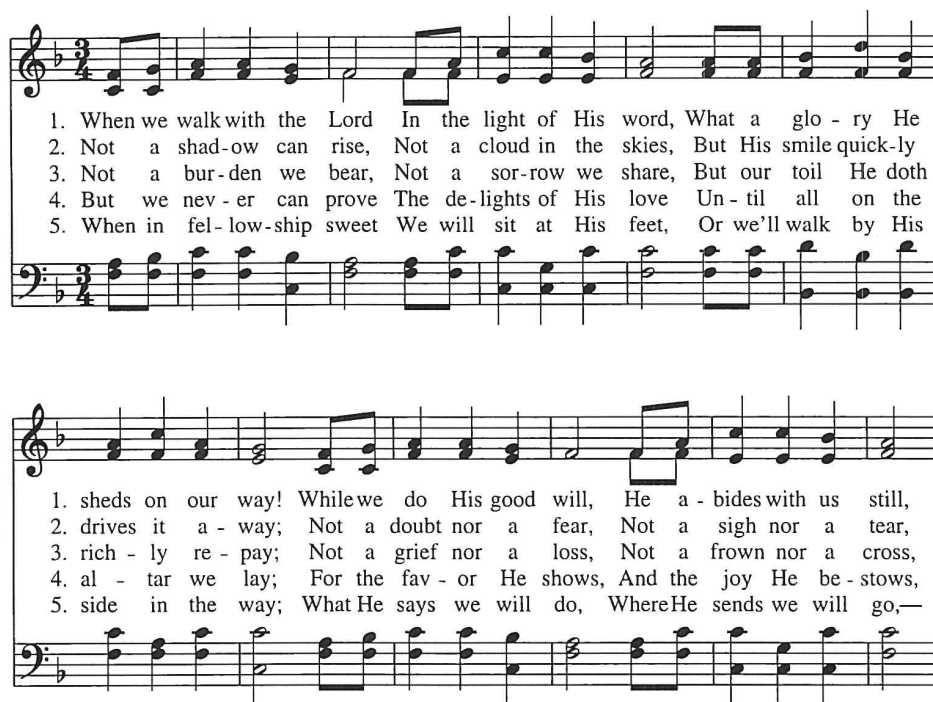
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on
us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, re-deem - er of the world: give us your peace.

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 205 (LEVAS) "When we walk with the Lord"



1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His word, What a glo - ry He
2. Not a shad-ow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quick-ly
3. Not a bur-den we bear, Not a sor-row we share, But our toil He doth
4. But we nev - er can prove The de-lights of His love Un - til all on the
5. When in fel-low-ship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His
1. sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a - bides with us still,
2. drives it a - way; Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear,
3. rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross,
4. al - tar we lay; For the fav - or He shows, And the joy He be - stows,
5. side in the way; What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go,—

1. And with all who will trust and o - bey.
 2. Can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
 3. But is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 4. Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 5. Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

no oth - er way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

Words: J. H. Sammis
 Music: D. B. Towner

Prayer after Communion, *standing as able*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn 477

"All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine"

Engelberg

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Postlude-Cantique

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

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The flowers on the altar are given by Chris and Jennifer Miller to the glory of God and with gratitude for this glorious creation with which we have been gifted and prayer that we find the wisdom to make it whole again.

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 Pam duPont and her generous gift of acoustic improvements to the Parish Hall;
for the members of the Mission & Justice committee who keep us informed about the needs of our ministry partners and manage funding for those programs;
for the Rummage Sale organizers and volunteers as they prepare for next week's event;
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 Rt. Rev Jonathan Folts who has announced his plan to retire as bishop of South Dakota at the end of 2027;
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, Reginald Brulotte, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, JoAnne Connor, Bea Comstock, Tony Custodio, Evelyn, Sherley Furgueson, Nancy Gould, Hazel, Dorothy Rider, Dione Solan, Gary Young, Jean Shaw, Nancy and Mel Chaney, Ken, Benjamin, Carrey Wing, Jess, and Jeff;

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 Christ Church, Stratford; Trinity, Tariffville; St. Peter's-Trinity, Thomaston;
for the Anglican Communion, including the Church of Bangladesh.

We commend to God's never-failing care

those who have died, remembering especially 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 the Ebola outbreak in central Africa; 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.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, *Rector*
 elaine@stjohnsessex.org.

The Rev. Lee Febos, *Missional Curate*
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Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*

Meghan Wrinn, *Parish Administrator*
 megan@stjohnsessex.org

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*

Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY

Wesley Henry & Jan Perruccio, *Wardens*; Peter Holland, *Clerk*, John Rogers, *Treasurer*
 Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Grace Horner Breault, Pam DuPont, Chip Goodrich,
 Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

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

MONDAYS | Bible Study - 5:30 p.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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