

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

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

Voluntary

John Stanley (1712-1786)

Welcome and Announcements, seated

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 481

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Gopsal

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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: Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let

me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

Chanted by members of the choir

- 1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
- 4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.
- 6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
- 21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
- 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
- 23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 649

“O Jesus, joy of loving hearts”

Dickinson College

Standing as able

The Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

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

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Deacon 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

Jesus said, "For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance."

We now offer our prayers and thanksgivings to God who has lavished upon us such bountiful love.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that God's will may be done through Christ's body gathered in community.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Seeking the good of all people, we pray for those in positions of authority whose decisions influence community life in our world and in our nation.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the beauty of this world and offering our prayers for those who work to protect the environment, may we be better stewards of creation.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giving thanks for all the blessings of this life, may we be generous in sharing all that we have been given from the hand of God.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in any kind of need, including those who are sick, mentally ill, or addicted, we pray for healing and wholeness, praying especially for those on our parish prayer list (*the intercessor reads the names*) and those we now name silently or aloud (*the people add their prayers*).

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us the grace to comfort those in need of comfort and to mourn with those who mourn. We pray for all who have died (*the people add their prayers*).

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with this Collect:

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, granting us those things that we most need and directing our hearts to desire most what you desire for us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins to God.

The people stand, kneel, or sit as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness. **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

Anthem

Anthem Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell (1905–1958)

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether;
For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.*

*As the brethren use to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.*

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 (expansive language)

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.

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-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.

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 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.

Celebrant and People

The Celebrant continues

Celebrant *People*

A-men.

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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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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.

Communion Hymn 317

"This is the hour of banquet and of song"

Morestead

Prayer after Communion, standing as able

Celebrant Let us pray.

People 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 556

"Rejoice, ye pure in heart"

Marion

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Built on a Rock, the Church will Stand

Norwegian Hymn

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Welcome to Sue Saltus, our guest organist this morning!

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of Thomas Sobuck.

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 the Rummage Sale organizers and volunteers who organized a successful 83rd anniversary 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 Brianna Birchall and Nick Barone as they prepare for their marriage at St. John's on October 23;

for the Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT) as it prepares for its annual diocesan convention on October 23/24, and for our delegates, Donna Moeller and Dan Welch;

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 the outbreaks of ebola and measles;

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, 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 St. John's, Vernon; St. Paul's, Wallingford; St. John's, Washington;

for the Anglican Communion, including the Anglican Church of Burundi.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Bible Study continues October 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the choir room. We will begin a discussion of The Book of Ruth.

Tuesday Bible Study on John's gospel continues October 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Morning Eucharist follows Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. in the chancel (choir area) of the church.

Assistance for Fr. José's family: In the aftermath of José Amaral Filipe's tragic death, we received word that his widow and young daughter need assistance to get on their feet as they deal with this grievous loss. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to St. John's with Mozambique in the subject line.

Upcoming Events:

TODAY!

11:45 a.m. St. John's Speaker Series ~ The Witness Stones Project

Join us as we recognize Thomas Sobuck, a Nehantic mariner indentured to a founding member of this congregation.

4:30 p.m. Second Sundays - Join us in the undercroft for a family friendly celebration of food and Holy Eucharist.

A Celebration of Life for Ed Birch: This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. at Essex Corinthian Yacht Club.

Mission & Justice News:

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 **bar soap**.

Urgent need for Soup Kitchen guests!

We are seeing record numbers of guests at our Tuesday evening meals, and a number of them are unhoused. If you are able to donate grocery cards (\$25-\$50) or gas cards in the same amount, that helps us serve the additional needs our guests have beyond a warm meal and supplies from Bill's Blessings. Drop the cards off in the Parish Office.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

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

The Rev. Lee Febos, *Missional Curate*
 lee@stjohnsessex.org

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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