



St. John's
Episcopal Church

a beacon of light in the heart of Montgomery

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025, 10:30 A.M.
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *All Glory Be to God on High* J.S. Bach
 Adagio Craig Phillips

THE OPENING HYMN 690 *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.**

THE GLORIA



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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 18:1-11

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

Sung by the choir.

¹Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.

²You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
 and are acquainted with all my ways.

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
 but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

⁴You press upon me behind and before *

and lay your hand upon me.

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹²For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹³I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁴My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁵Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁶How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

¹⁷If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the
sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

THE EPISTLE: PHILEMON 1-21

A Reading from Paul's Letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed

useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 567 *Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old*

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 14:25-33

Remain standing.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston *All sit.*

THE NICENE CREED *All stand.*

The Celebrant and People say together

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI) *All kneel as able.*

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, and for those who serve in our local hospitals, care facilities, schools, colleges, and correctional facilities; for those who serve in law enforcement and in the legal system; and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric.
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; for our President Donald, our Governor Kay, and our Mayor Steven; for members of our state legislature, and our national representatives and senators, that there may be respectful and wise governance for the welfare of our nation and of the world; and for victims of violence and conflict, especially in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East.
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation, and an awareness and sense of gratitude for the beauty of the world around us;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops,
Duncan and Mark our priests, Mawande our deacon; for Stewart our
seminarian, and for all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your
eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Call* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life, Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife, Such a Life, as killeth death

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength, Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length, Such a Strength, as makes his guest

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart, Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part, Such a Heart, as joys in love

All stand to sing the offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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. _____

All kneel as able.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He 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 Lord 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 he 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, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

**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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

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.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.

Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel 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

Celebrant Go now to live and share your faith with all.
Love Christ more than even family or friends,
and, in Christ, love all God's people.
Do not cling to possessions,
but take up your cross and follow Jesus.

And may God shape you in the ways of love and justice;
May Christ Jesus refresh your heart;
And may the Holy Spirit surround you with grace and peace. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 408 *Sing praise to God, who reigns above* *All stand.*

THE DISMISSAL

When the clergy have moved to the front door of the church, the Deacon then sings

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE POSTLUDE

Prelude in C

J.S. Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*

The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana, *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Lector and Intercessor: Mary Hughes, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Virginia Banister, Kat Dailey

Ushers/Greeters: Chuck Ocheltree, Rich Anderson, Mark Chappell, Cole Wise

Flower Guild: Jane Barganier, Josie Eskridge

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanette Lynn, George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Sam Collier

Instrumentalists: Jihye Choi, *violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*; Robert Scott, *flute*

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Turner Christian Cameron, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Nancy Buzard, Rosa Davis, Rick Durden, Dave Funk, Emily Crump Johannes, Valinda Johnson, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Scott Simmons, Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace

Prayers are also requested for these friends:

Emma Allshouse, Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Stephanie Holmes, Janet Hutto, Charles Lewis, Leslie Little, Karen Pacheco, Pat and Shirley Patterson, Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki, Madera Spenser, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Katherine Weidner, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.

The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.

Pastoral Care Team for September: Emmi Harrell, Meri Moody,

Nancy Bradford, Mary Helen Mahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kickoff Sunday: Sunday School, Ministry Signups, and More

You do not want to miss Kickoff Sunday on September 7. Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. and everyone is invited to stay for a picnic lunch directly following the 10:30 service where St. John's will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. There will be water inflatables for the children, so do not forget to bring swimsuits and beach towels. Kickoff Sunday also marks the beginning of a new opportunities to sign up for ministries for the coming year.

Be on the lookout for your Breeze invite

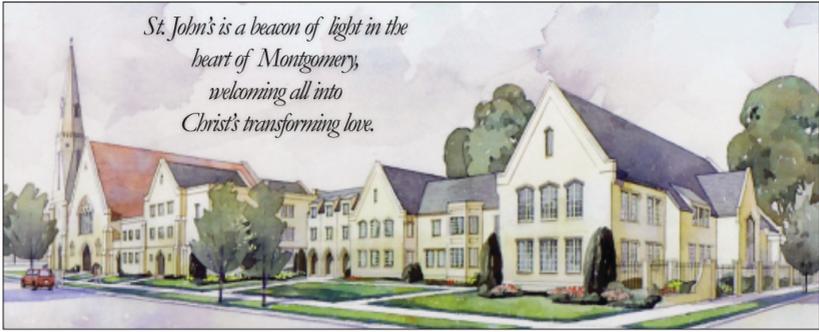
Also starting September 7, St. John's will change to a new system called Breeze for its giving, directory, calendar, website, and app. You will receive an invite via email to create your account. Information guides will be printed and available in the church office or on the St. John's website. A training is scheduled for September 14 at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. Bring your laptop and all your questions!

New Rector's Forum: "Scrolling Ourselves to Death"

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. | Beginning September 14 | St. John's Library
How is constant connectivity shaping our souls? Join us for a new Rector's Forum exploring the impact of technology, social media, and digital distraction on our spiritual lives. Inspired by cultural commentary and grounded in faith, "Scrolling Ourselves to Death" invites honest conversation about how we can live more intentionally in a wired world.

Heavenly Hosts Covered Dish Supper

Adults covered dish supper Tuesday, September 9 from 6-8 p.m. Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Duncan & Gelind Johnston. Soft drinks will be provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.



We're glad you are at St. John's today.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or attending regularly,
you are a part of the St. John's family.

Visitor Card



Visitors, please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

stjohnsmontgomery.org

Visit our website to see service times,
news from the parish, upcoming events,
mission opportunities and more.



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.
Your generosity supports our ministries
in Montgomery and beyond.

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