



**St. John's
Episcopal Church**

a beacon in the heart of Montgomery

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE

All Glory Be to God on High

J.S. Bach

Fughetta on 'All Glory Be to God on High'

J.S. Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 523 *Glorious things of thee are spoken*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

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.**

GLORIA (S280)

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: MICAH 6:1-8

All sit.

A Reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: “Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.”

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

*Sung by the choir.*¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

³There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
⁴In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
 but he honors those who fear the Lord.
⁵He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.
⁶He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
 nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
⁷Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 577 *God is love, and where true love is*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

Remain standing.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358)

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.

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, and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
especially _____. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given, for _____; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word, and deed,
By what we have done,
And 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,

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, for our Bishop-Elect, for the clergy of this parish, and for Stewart our seminarian.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
For our President Donald, our Governor Kay, and our Mayor Steven; for members of our state legislature, and our national representatives and senators,

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

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 *Blest Are They* David Haas

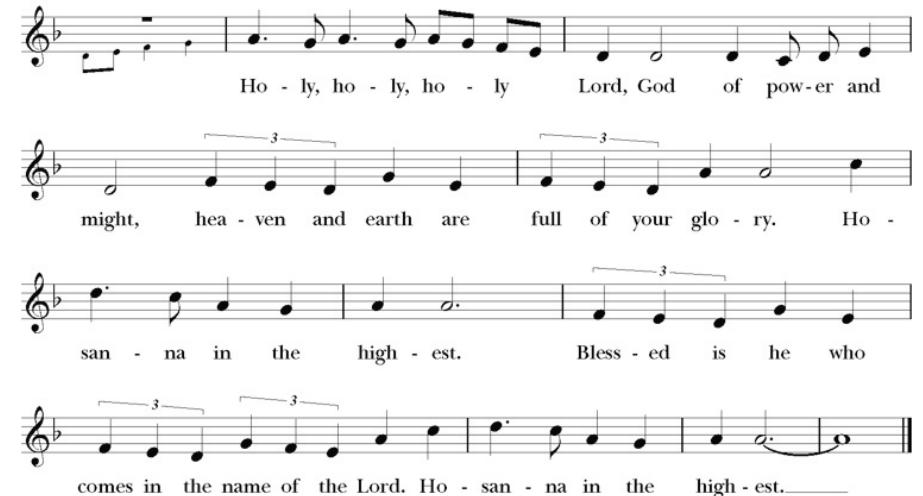
All stand to sing the offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.

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, BCP p. 361) *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, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:



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.

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 forever. **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 (BCP p. 365)

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

Go out into the world.

Walk with integrity.

Do only what is right.

Speak the truth with courage.

And may God reward your mercy with divine mercy;

May Christ Jesus allow you to see God;

And may the Holy Spirit lead you into righteousness and peace

and fill you with all the blessings of God's children. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 448 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high*

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in F

David N Johnson

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Organist: Joel Gregory

Acolytes: Thomas Lawlor, John Morgan Longshore, Lawton McCollum, Davis Schremser

Altar Guild: Libby Beck, Josie Eskridge

Lector and Intercessor: Ashley Roseboro, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Harlow, Mary Hughes, JR Marshall

Ushers/Greeters: Cole Wise, Rich Anderson, Tracey Campbell, Karen Westhauser

Flower Guild: Betsy Cannon, Mary Martin Mitchell

Flower Delivery Team: George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Sam Collier

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Harald Ernst Hermann Rohlig, Jeanette Hart Lynn, Albert Leon Lynn, Sr., James Thomas Freeman, Detlev Harald Rohlig, Deborah Anne Rohlig, William Arthur Cannon, Mildred Lucille Coapstick, Thomas Eugene Cannon, Mary Rita Unger, Patricia Jean Hoefling, Frank Yates Rosa, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Phillip Brown, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Dave Funk, Carolyn Fillmore, Anne Hill, Emily Crump Johannes, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason, Jerry Pickett, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace, Stewart Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Serge Ruffato, Alice Sewell, Ron Skoneki, Johnny Smith, Madera Spencer, 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 February: Anne Hamner, Cindy Seibels, Florence Tyson, Margaret Ann Selman, Susan Harris

Giving statements now available

St. John's giving statements for 2025 are now available for pickup in the church office. Please look for the box labeled "2025 Giving Statements" and locate the envelope with your name on it. Please note that statements will not be mailed unless specially requested. This will save on postage and the uncertainty of the postal system. Please call the church office at 334-262-1937 or email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org for more information.

Youth Winter Hangout

All 5th–12th grade youth are invited to a Winter Hangout on Sunday, February 8! We'll head out for lunch at Eddy's and then enjoy ice skating at Montgomery White Water—a fun afternoon of food, laughter, and time together. Friends are welcome, so feel free to invite someone to join you. We'll meet at the St. John's van at 11:30 a.m., right after the 10:30 service, and return for pickup at the Montgomery White Water parking lot at 3 p.m.

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course

Beginning Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, join Duncan for an 8-week Welcome Course. This is an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and Episcopal tradition. Email Duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's for a beloved Shrove Tuesday tradition! Enjoy a hearty supper of pancakes, bacon, and plenty of coffee and tea. The meal is cooked and served by the Scouts, and all proceeds benefit Scout Troop 8. Tickets are \$6 per plate, making it an easy (and delicious) way to support our local Scouts as we prepare for the season of Lent. Bring your family, invite a friend, and come share good food and good fellowship before the solemnity of Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Lunch Series: Encounters with Jesus

Join us for a Lenten Lunch Series at St. John's on Wednesdays during Lent at 12:05 p.m. Each week we will gather for midday prayer followed by a short message reflecting on Encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel—stories that invite us to slow down, listen, and notice how Christ meets people where they are. A simple soup lunch will be served for \$6 following the service. Come nourish your spirit and your body in the midst of the Lenten season.

Lenten Dinner Series: Lost for Words

Join us for a Lenten Dinner Teaching Series at St. John's beginning Wednesday, February 25, at 6 p.m. Each week, a full dinner will be served for donations, followed by a thoughtful teaching exploring a question many are asking: Why has the church lost relevance—and what can we do about it?

Over the five middle Wednesdays of Lent, Lost for Words will take an honest look at the causes of church decline in America and invite us into new ways of witnessing to Christ in our own time and place. Topics will include integrity, empathy, substance, cultural awareness, and discovering where God is already at work beyond church walls. Come for good food, meaningful conversation, and renewed hope for the church.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, Bishop of Alabama

St. John's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, Rector
The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr. Associate Rector
Joel Gregory, Organist & Choirmaster
Sarah Collier, Director of Children's Christian Formation
J.R. Marshall, Director of Youth Ministries
Emily Howard, Director of Communications
Constance Rodgers, Assistant to the Rector
Myron Smoke, Maintenance Superintendent

Vestry and Officers

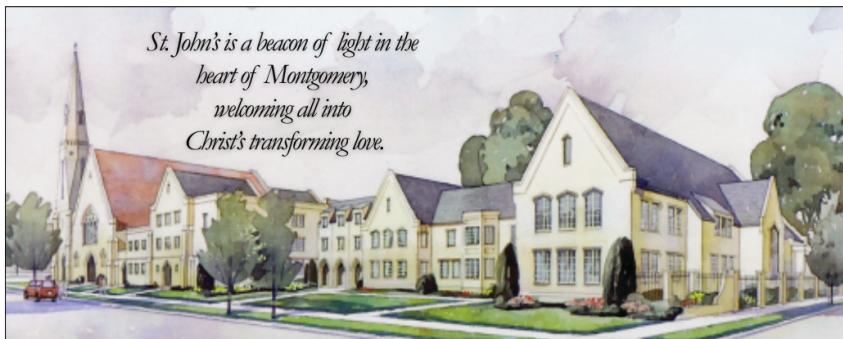
Bill Eskridge, Senior Warden
Florence Tyson, Junior Warden
Richard Bradford, Treasurer

Class of 2026: Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchell, Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

Class of 2027: Richard Anderson, Jon Dailey, Bill Johnson, Jim Marshall III, Florence Tyson, Karen Westhauser

Class of 2028: Libby Beck, Tracey Campbell, Sommerville Hill, Ken Kline, Nick Prillaman

*St. John's is a beacon of light in the
heart of Montgomery,
welcoming all into
Christ's transforming love.*



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.

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

stjohnsmontgomery.org



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.

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