



St. John's Episcopal Church
Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025 10am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Variations on the chorale *Wer nur den lieben Gott laesst walten*
Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand to sing the

Opening Hymn #7 *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

RATISBON

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

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 S-280

Service music is found at the beginning of the hymnal, listed in numerical order before the hymns

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

insert

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-21

insert

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

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino* *Tone VIII.2*



- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done / marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for him/self the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight / of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD all you lands; *
lift up your / voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp / and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and / those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he / comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity. [Ant.]

The Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

insert

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

Sequence Hymn #635 *If thou but trust in God to guide thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Verse 1 will be sung before the reading of the Gospel.

Verse 2 will be sung after the reading.

The Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

insert

Presider The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Following the Gospel

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rector

The Nicene Creed

**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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Bridget, Lyn, Megan, Markus, Cecilia, Elizabeth, Lin, David, and Renee;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and 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.**

The Priest stands and says

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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All are invited to exchange greetings of peace.

Welcome and Announcements of our Ministries

The Rector

Offertory Hymn #665 *All my hope on God is founded*

MICHAEL



During the Offertory Hymn, our ushers will pass the collection plate. You are welcome to make an offering by leaving cash or a check in the plate, or by scanning the QR code to donate online via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly).

Whether you are able to support our ministry financially or not, please know that you are invited to full participation in this church on exactly the same terms and conditions as God's grace and love: completely free of charge.

Today is our Stewardship Ingathering. During the Offertory Hymn, you are invited to come forward and place your pledge card in the basket at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the altar.

Blessing of Pledges

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and life-giving, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have given us in this life, and for all those who support the ministry of this church with their time, talent, and treasure. Bless these pledges that we make today, that they may remind us always of who we have been inspired to be, and who we are being invited to become in this place; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave up his life for us that we may have life, and have it abundantly. *Amen.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues, concluding with:

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:

The Sanctus Hymnal S-125

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues to give thanks, and invites all to join in

The Memorial Acclamation

Presider Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Presider continues praying, concluding with

Presider 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.

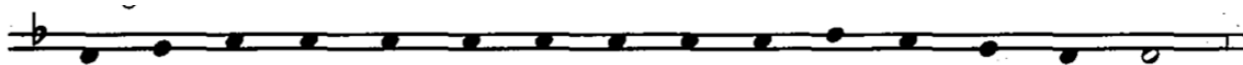
All **AMEN.**

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

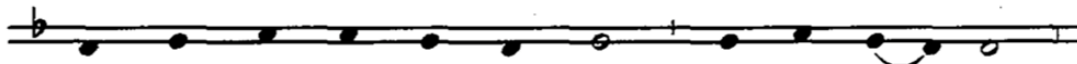
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Communion Anthem *Once he came in blessing* Michael Weisse (d.1534)

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn #632 *O Christ, the Word incarnate*

MUNICH

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, O Herr*

J.G. Walther

The flowers on the altar today were arranged by Alice Krapf

Ministers Serving Today:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Presider

Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director

Paul Newell, Vestry Person of the Day

Louis Tompros and Jen DiManno, Readers

Augusta Fry, Intercessor

Duncan Holbrook-Smith, Chalice

Catherine Womack and Jen DiManno, Ushers

Catherine Womack, Altar Guild

Simon Ringrose, Laura Carroll and Maureen Lavelly, Coffee Hour Hosts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Stewardship Ingathering Sunday. Pledge cards are available throughout the church. Please place your completed card in the plate when passed at the offertory. Completed pledge cards can also be placed in the office or mailed.

Our 2026 budget will be created based on pledges received, so if you are not submitting a pledge today, please send yours before the end of November. Information about our 2025 budget is on the opposite page. Please take a moment to review as you discern your 2026 commitment.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this year's Harvest Fair such a wonderful success. From cooking turkeys and baking pies to setting up tables and chairs, from welcoming our neighbors to St. John's to serving meals, so many people have given their time and energy to help make the day a special one. Thanks go especially to the generous sponsors who made it possible for us to offer free or discounted meals to our community. It was a true blessing to sit together, eat, and celebrate all the good things God has done for us.

Beloved parishioner, Bridget Nyhan continues her recovery from Gillam-Barre -- now at Spaulding in Charlestown! Cards and well wishes can be sent to Bridget c/o Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, #642; 300 1st Ave; Charlestown, MA 02129. Please continue to keep Bridget in your prayers and know that she and her family are deeply grateful for the love and support.

Pressure on local food pantries is increasing greatly during what is already their highest-demand season. If you are in a position to help, please consider making a cash donation to Harvest on Vine, our local food pantry, or bring canned goods or other non-perishables to the basket at the back of the church. Patricia Noonan will get those donations to Harvest on Vine. If you are worried about your own finances due to the loss of SNAP this month, please talk to Greg and he can help connect you with other resources.

You are invited to begin Advent with a community event intended to set aside a couple of hours to be together for fellowship and conversation. On **Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30pm**, join us at the church for an "Entering Advent" potluck. Bring a dish, an appetizer, drinks, or a dessert to share. We'll have some conversation prompts on Advent themes, and a prayer or two, but it will mostly be a chance to be together.

Church Budget Fast Facts

*As you consider your pledge for 2026,
the Vestry would like to share an overview of our overall budget.*

St. John's has an annual budgeted income of **\$226,205**:

- 55% from pledge donations
- 13% from other giving
- 15% from building rentals*
- 13% from investment income
- 4% from fundraisers and other sources

We receive no financial support from the Episcopal Church or from the Diocese of Massachusetts.

** We are actively looking for new rentals to increase this. Referrals are helpful, so if you know a music class, kids' activity, or other community group looking for space, please speak with the Rector or a Vestry member.*

St. John's has annual budgeted expenses of **\$260,000**:

- 39% in salary and benefits for the Rector, who is employed at 60% of full time
- 29% in salary and benefits for our part-time lay staff
- 14% for utilities and building expenses
- 8% to our Diocesan Assessment, which supports the ministry of the wider church
- 10% all other costs (office expenses, music program, outreach, fellowship)

This means we have a structural deficit of **\$33,000**, even with a part-time priest.

Gathering pledges during the fall stewardship campaign every year allows us to put together an accurate budget for the coming year. Thank you for your ongoing support for the ministry of the church.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 2

Entering Advent Potluck

6:30pm

Saturday, December 13

Lessons and Carols

5pm

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service

Wednesday, December 24

Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve

4pm

Thursday, December 25

Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day

10am

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 Devens Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

617-242-1272 | stjohns02129@gmail.com | www.stjohns02129.org

The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Nancy Savage, Godly Play Teacher

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sexton

Mr. Matt Hast and Mr. Simon Ringrose, Wardens