



**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 10, 2025, 9:30 AM**  
**Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship, and visit us at [stjohnscentreville.org](http://stjohnscentreville.org).

Today's service follows the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew. Service music, noted with an "S," can be found in the front of the book, and our hymns, noted by an "H" and their number, after that. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

**The Word of God**

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn:** H 68, "Rejoice! rejoice, believers"

*Llangloffan*

**Opening Acclamation**

BCP, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

BCP, p. 355

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.**

**Song of Praise:** S 280 "Gloria to God"

*Gloria in excelsis*

**Collect of the Day**

*Proper 14, BCP, p. 232*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Children's Story**

*Our youngest parishioners are invited to come forward for today's story.*

### **The First Lesson:** Genesis 15:1-6

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

### **Response:** Psalm 33:12-22, *Exultate, justi*

BCP, p. 626

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! \* **happy the people he has chosen to be his own!**

The Lord looks down from heaven, \* **and beholds all the people in the world.**

From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \* **on all who dwell on the earth.**

He fashions all the hearts of them \* **and understands all their works.**

There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \* **a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.**

The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \* **for all its strength it cannot save.**

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, \* **on those who wait upon his love,**

To pluck their lives from death, \* **and to feed them in time of famine.**

Our soul waits for the Lord; \* **he is our help and our shield.**

Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \* **for in his holy Name we put our trust.**

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, \* **as we have put our trust in you.**

### **The Second Lesson:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

### **Gospel Hymn:** H 533, "How wondrous and great thy works"

*Lyons*

### **Gospel:** Luke 12:32-40

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and

knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

**Sermon:** The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

**Nicene Creed**

BCP, p. 358

**Prayers of the People:**

O God your Word comes to us, and our hearts are uplifted. Listen now, we beseech you, to the needs and thanksgivings of your people as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Confession of Sin**

BCP, p. 359

**The Peace**

BCP, p. 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

*At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.*

*As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check, use the QR code at right to donate online, or text STJOHNSCENTREVILLE to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.*



**The Presentation of Alms & Oblations:** H 380, v. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

BCP, p. 367

**Sanctus:** S 125, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"

**Eucharist Prayer continues**

BCP, p. 368

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP, p. 364

**Fraction Anthem:** S 161 "Lamb of God"

*Agnus Dei*

### Communion

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. To receive the wafer, extend one hand over the other. If you wish to receive the wine, take a sip of the wine by guiding the chalice to your lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine is not permitted. The bishop's customary requires the minister to do it for you. If you wish the minister to intinct, make a dipping motion or point to the minister when you approach. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than Communion, please cross your arms over your chest as you approach.*

**Communion Hymn:** H 635, "If thou but trust in God to guide thee"

*Wer nur den lieben Gott*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP, p. 365

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:** H 401, "The God of Abraham praise"

*Leoni*

## Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

**Blessing of Backpacks and Devices, August 17.** Bring your backpacks, devices, briefcases, purses, or whatever you're carrying into autumn to worship August 17 at 9:30 AM for a special blessing.

**Retirement Ceremony for Emori Moore, August 24.** You are invited to attend Capt. Emori Moore's retirement ceremony on August 24 at 4:00 PM in the St. John's Parish Hall. Join us as we celebrate a parishioner and vestry member's faithful and honorable service to our country. See Enotes and website to RSVP.

**Save the Date: Centreville Day, October 18** The 33rd Annual Centreville Day celebration is October 18, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The festival is located in Historic Centreville Park, right in St. John's front yard (!), in the heart of the Centreville Historic District. Stay tuned for more details on the day's events, and how you can represent St. John's.

**Coffee Hour.** Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

**Adult Lectionary Forum.** If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

**Visit Us!** For more information, visit [stjohnscentreville.org](http://stjohnscentreville.org) and subscribe to our E-notes.

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## TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant:	The Rev. Kevin Laskowski	Acolyte:	Val Tucker
Deacon:	The Rev. Steve Busch	Alms Counters:	Marie McDermott, Marcia Evans
Music Director:	Mandy Hull	Altar Guild:	Marie McDermott, Libby McCullough
Usher:	Tom Jones		
Lector:	Laura Walsh		

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, [Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com)  
The Rev. Steve Busch, Deacon, [Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com)  
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The Rev. Jason Lody, Ministry Partners Administrator, [mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com](mailto:mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com)  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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