



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 2023, 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 12 faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship for coffee hour, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the red 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

Processional Hymn: H 435 "At the Name of Jesus"

King's Weston

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

Song of Praise: S 280 "Gloria to God"

Gloria in excelsis

Collect of the Day

BCP, Proper 21, p. 234

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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. They'll adjourn to children's chapel, returning in time for Communion.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Response: Psalm 25:1-8

BCP, p. 614

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * **let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; * **let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O Lord, * **and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, * **for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * **for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * **remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; * **therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right * **and teaches his way to the lowly.**

Second Lesson: If Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 343 "Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless"

St. Agnes

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski**The Nicene Creed**

BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People:

If you would like to add someone to our public prayer list, or mark a birthday or anniversary in the prayers, please contact staff or clergy.

Let us pray to the Lord: **Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

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, or use the QR code at right to donate online. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can also 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 A**

BCP, p. 361

Sanctus: S 129, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"**Prayer A (cont.)**

BCP, p. 362

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S 161 "Lamb of God"*Agnus Dei***Communion Hymn:** H 339 "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness"*Schmucke dich*

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements**Blessing****Recessional Hymn:** H 574 "Before thy throne, O God, we kneel"*St. Petersburg***Dismissal**

BCP, p. 366

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

+ + + + + + + + + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.**Drive-Thru/Walk-By Pet Blessings.** October 4 is the feast of St. Francis, patron saint of animals. Bring your pets by the church any time from 4 PM to 7 PM. I'll be waiting outside with treats and gifts to bless dogs, cats, and any scaly or feathered friend in thanksgiving before a brief outdoor service at 7 PM.**Coming Attractions.** Please see the website calendar and most recent newsletter, also on the website, for news about Centreville Day, The Compleat Book of Common Prayer (Abridged), The Eucharist (Annotated), and Trunk-or-Treat.**Serving on Sundays.** Worship is a work of the people, and we need you! We're always looking for volunteers for Sunday services: folks to sing in the choir, serve at the altar, read the lessons, or assist with children's chapel and our livestream. Contact Rev. Kevin to learn more about where you might lend your time and talent, where God might be calling you.**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 and subscribe to our E-notes.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

Usher: Jim Heller

Deacon: The Rev. Steve Busch

Lector: Dick Griffith

Music Director: Mandy Hull

Alms Counters: Marie McDermott, Larry Pike

Crucifer: Val Tucker

Altar Guild: Durinda Smith

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFFThe Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.comThe Rev. Deacon Steve Busch, Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.comDave Parker, Senior Warden, SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.comMandy Hull, Organist & Choir Director, amandahull101@gmail.comTerri Katon, Parish Administrator, ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.comThe Rev. Jason Lody, Ministry Partners Administrator, mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com