



# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Independence Day  
July 3, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Evening Prayer: 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](http://stjohnscentreville.org).

*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.*

## **Evening Prayer**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name. *Amos 5:8*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

### **Confession of Sin**

BCP, p. 116

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**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.**

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 Invitatory and Psalter

BCP, p. 117

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

BCP, p. 118

**O gracious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

## The Psalm: Psalm 145:1-9

BCP, p. 801

I will exalt you, O God my King, \* **and bless your Name for ever and ever.**

Every day will I bless you \* **and praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \* **there is no end to his greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another \* **and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \* **and all your marvelous works.**

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \* **and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \* **they shall sing of your righteous deeds.**

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \* **slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Lord is loving to everyone \* **and his compassion is over all his works.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## The Lessons

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 10:17-21

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

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

## The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

BCP, p. 119

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \* **for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \* **the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \* **in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \* **he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \* **and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \* **and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \* **for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, \* **to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as It was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

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.**

## The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

BCP, p. 120

Lord, you now have set your servant free \* to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \* whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \* and the glory of your people Israel.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

## Homily: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

### The Apostles' Creed

BCP, p. 120

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

BCP, p. 121

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 121

**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.**

### **Suffrages A**

BCP, p. 121

Show us your mercy, O Lord; **And grant us your salvation.**  
Clothe your ministers with righteousness; **Let your people sing with joy.**  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
Lord, keep this nation under your care; **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth; **Your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten; **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in us clean hearts, O God; **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### **Collect for Independence Day**

BCP, p. 242

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Protection**

BCP, p. 124

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for Mission**

BCP, p. 124

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

BCP, p. 126

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

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

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, [Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com)

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