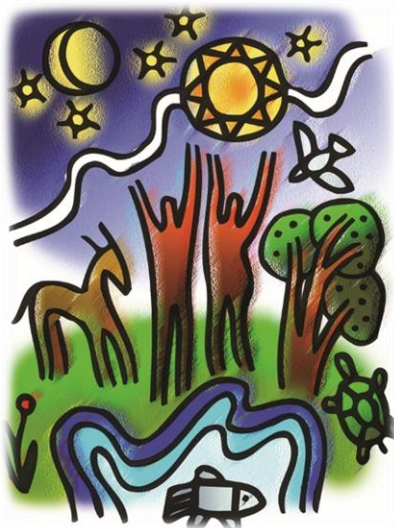




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The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, September 20th, 2026
8:30 AM

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true

And with thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Tell the people, to stop the fighting
Start uniting, all as one

Let's get together, loving forever
Sanctuary for You.

Lord prepare me to be a testimony
Pure and holy, tried and true

And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Testimony for You.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.*

OPENING ANTHEM *Glory to God*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 1:17-27

The people sit.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

¹⁷ David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. ¹⁸ (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said,

¹⁹ “Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath;
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice;
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

²¹ You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you
nor bounteous fields!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

²² From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor the sword of Saul return empty.

²³ Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵ How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

²⁷ How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Ezekiel 19:1–3; 10–14

Remain seated.

¹As for you, raise up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, ² and say:
What a lioness was your mother among lions!*

She lay down among young lions, rearing her cubs.

³ She raised up one of her cubs; he became a young lion,*
and he learned to catch prey; he devoured humans.

¹⁰ Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard transplanted by the water,*
fruitful and full of branches from abundant water.

¹¹ Its strongest stem became a ruler’s scepter; it towered aloft among the
clouds;*

it stood out in its height with its mass of branches

¹² But it was plucked up in fury, cast down to the ground; the east wind dried it up; its fruit was stripped off;*
its strong stem was withered; the fire consumed it.

¹³ Now it is transplanted into the wilderness,*
into a dry and thirsty land.

¹⁴ And fire has gone out from its stem, has consumed its branches and fruit,*
so that there remains in it no strong stem, no scepter for ruling.

This is a lamentation, and it is used as a lamentation.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–7

The people sit.

A reading from the Revelation of John

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Be Thou my Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

All else be naught to me save that thou art

Thou my best thought by day or by night

Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord

Thou my great Father, thine own may I be

Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee

High King of heaven, when victory is won,

May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's sun

Heart of my heart, whatever befall

Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1–9

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Benedict Varnum

THE CREED

All stand.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Lorraine, Don, Geno & family, Irene, Tom, Carol, Norma, Kevin, Carla & family, Easton, Mike, Marie, Jean, Willie, Ralph, Jim, Jan, Mark, Emersyn, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence, the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God in heaven;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant says:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries: Leslie and Grant Suhr

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

OFFERTORY

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Myrin and Redman

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
Worship God's holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise un-ending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

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.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our Mothers; God of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

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

DISTRIBUTION

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

The ministers receive the Sacrament and immediately deliver it to the people. All who are present are welcome to receive communion in bread and wine. Receiving either element (or both) is a full communion, and we have gluten free bread available on request. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms across your chest at the front altar. It is also perfectly respectful to remain seated if you do not wish to come forward.

COMMUNION HYMN *Let us Break Bread Together on our Knees*

Let us break bread together on our knees

Let us break bread together on our knees

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

POST-COMM. HYMN

People Get Ready

People get ready there's a train a comin'
Picking up passengers from coast to coast
Faith is the key to open the doors and board it
You don't need no ticket you just get on board
Refrain: Get ready o way o, Get ready o way o

There's always hope for the hopeless sinners
Who would hurt humankind just to save their own
God have mercy on the hopeless sinner
'Cause there's no hiding place from the Kingdom's throne
Refrain: Get ready o way o, Get ready o way o

People get ready there's a train a comin'
Picking up passengers from coast to coast
All you need is faith to hear those diesels comin'
You don't need no baggage you just get on board
Refrain 2x: Get ready o way o, Get ready o way o

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Special Collection: Episcopal Relief and Development

In September, our special collection (the wicker baskets in worship) goes to Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD is the Episcopal Church's organization that responds to major events, natural disasters, and ongoing cycles of poverty where intervention and resources can make a difference. We recognize and support ERD's work in September because they were the church's immediate response to the 9/11 attacks, and it is often a month in which we're aware of both fires from dry areas and storm seasons throughout our world. You can learn more about their work at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>. Thanks also for a very successful August collection, which raised a total of \$1,641 for The Furniture Project!

Episcopal Relief and Development News

John Andrews, a lay member of our diocese, is joining the Rev Christine Plantz as a Diocesan Ministry Partner for ERD. They are seeking a Congregational Ministry Partner from each parish to help keep aware of ERD's work. They also want to remind our communities that while ERD serves relief and development needs generally, it also has a specific focus on four areas: early childhood development, women and girls, climate resilience, and disaster response. If you are curious about serving as our St A's liaison with ERD's ongoing work, please connect with Fr Ben!

Office Hour Change

As we go into the program year our office hours will return to 9am-1pm, Monday – Thursday.

Lectors Needed

We are in need of lectors for our 10:30 service – this requires no training, just sign up using the form on the table in the entryway. Our clergy are always happy to help with questions, especially regarding pronunciation! If you are interested in being a lector at the 8:30 service please reach out to the office.

August Vestry Notes

The Vestry (the parish board) met on Sunday, August 16th. They reviewed and approved financial reports and an annual audit report, which showed no major issues, and included a recommendation to create a written description of parish financial policies and procedures. The vestry noted that we have a number of areas in which that would be a helpful tool. The Vestry also heard about an invitation to be considered as a site for the Munroe-Meyer Guild Garden Walk in June 2027; serving as a site would involve visitors to our garden throughout a Sunday. The Vestry voted to approve participation pending conversations with our local Property Owners Association and with a requirement that we do not cancel worship that Sunday; if we are selected as a site, we expect a team will discuss garden needs, traffic management through the day, and what hospitality we'd like to offer alongside the walk. In addition, the Vestry reviewed our Summer staffing changes and conversations, and noted that with a new administrator this Fall, we have a prime moment of opportunity to review various staff needs and goals, which our Finance Committee will also be participating in. The next Vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 20th at noon**; meetings are always open to anyone who would like to participate. If you have something you would like the vestry to review or discuss, please let Fr Ben know a week ahead so it can be added to the agenda!

Outreach Notes from September

Our parish Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, September 15th to review events and plan upcoming programs. We heard major updates from the COPE strategic planning process: they're spending the fall setting goals and talking about structure, with some big topics on the table. Our COPE liaisons and Outreach team will keep our church updated as we hear more from them. We reviewed plans for the COPE breakfasts, Blood Drive, Chili Cookoff, Merry Market, and set the next two Outreach meetings (see separate announcements through the Fall!). The next meetings will be held on **Sunday, October 11th at 9:45** and **Sunday, November 1st, at 11:35**.

Parish Outreach Meetings

Our Outreach Committee's next two meetings will be presentations the whole parish is welcome to attend to hear more. On **October 11th**, the Committee will present about upcoming Outreach events through the Fall and Winter at coffee hour between the two services. This will be part of celebrating "Talent" Sunday during our Stewardship month. On **November 1st**, the Outreach Committee will lead a parish meeting after the late service; everyone is welcome to attend as the Outreach team discusses plans for 2027, including setting our calendar of special offerings for the coming year. Please save the date for these if you'd like to learn more about how our parish helps with partners, giving, and special programs throughout the year!

Stewardship Month

In October, we have a special Stewardship Month at St Augustine of Canterbury, celebrating the Time, Talent, and Treasure we pledge to our church as the foundation of our worship, community, programs, services, and activities. Here are some special things about this year's Stewardship Month!

- Stewardship Letter: a letter will be mailed to parish households by the first week of October, including a note from our Jon Vest (our Finance Chair) and Fr Ben, along with a pledge card, FAQ for the pledge campaign, and some practical graph tools we've used for several years. If you don't receive one, it may mean we need to update your mailing address at the church office, and you can call 402-289-4058 or e-mail parish@sainta.net.
- Treasure Meeting, **October 4th** after each service. This coffee hour conversation lets our planning team share information about the coming year's financial needs and goals. It is intended to help people begin prayerful discernment about their financial pledge for the pledge card, and it is a chance to learn about our financial practices at church and ask any questions we have.
- Talent Sunday, **October 11th** focuses on how we use our gifts at church. We'll hear about ministries in different ways this morning, including an Outreach presentation between our services and an acolyte training at 11:45.
- Time Sunday, **October 18th** will offer a chance to reflect on the time we commit to God and neighbor and our church community. This year, we'll be hosting The Benedictine Way's monastic community to lead Sunday worship and share about their contemplative programs, food pantry, and weekly prayer opportunities, both to invite people to join in their work and to help us reflect on the role of prayer here at St A's.

- Ingathering **Sunday, October 25th** is the date we bring our pledge cards to worship to bless during worship, and celebrate our ingathering with a coffee hour celebration. We'll have extra pledge cards on hand throughout the month and on this Sunday, and everyone is encouraged to participate in our liturgy that day, even if they need to write "still thinking" or "turned in already."

Stay tuned for more as we move through our Stewardship Month in October, and feel free to ask our staff, finance team, or vestry members if you have any questions!

Sacred Ground

Tuesdays 6:30-8 pm, 9/29 to 12/15

Fr Ben and Barb Hall are convening a group to go through the Sacred Ground curriculum this fall. This 11-session workshop uses 2-3 hours of reading and video preparation for each session. This builds up a foundation for group conversations about the history of race in our country, our churches, and our communities. Our church setting invites us to bring a theology of God's vision of the whole human family to have a deeper awareness of where sin has divided us, and to discern what reconciliation and healing look like in our own lives and day and age. The curriculum has been updated, so previous registrants may find it valuable to participate again to review the material and experience the new offerings! The invitation is to sign up for the full 11 sessions, although it is fine to miss a week or two if necessary. For questions, please contact Fr Ben or Barb; contact info available through the parish office at 402-378-5690.

Fall Adult Formation Opportunity

This fall, adult formation will be available on Thursdays at noon! All are welcome to join us for one week, one month, or all of these opportunities!

September 24: Reading the Bible

During these studies, we will consider how to read Scripture faithfully. Is the Bible history? How do we read the bible in its literary context? How do we approach ethical issues in the Bible such as patriarchy, slavery and abuse of power? **Bible study meets Thursdays at noon.** A Zoom link is also available on the parish Google Calendar.

October Midweek Study: Rule of St Benedict

On Thursdays in October, we'll be studying the Rule of St Benedict, led by Fr Benedict (no relation). The lives of monastic Christians have long been a model for contemplation and community, and the commitments made by monks, nuns, oblates, novices, and others were among the earliest examples of holding to a "rule of life" grounded in faith. For those who would like to read along further, Fr Ben will be using Joan Chittister's commentary, "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century" to help guide this class. It is also a great chance to learn more about monastic practices as we prepare to welcome the Benedictine Way monastery community to lead our worship on Sunday, October 18th.

Book Club & Culture Club Joint Events

Over the course of the next month, the Elaine Randall Book Club will be reading *Our House* by Louise Candlish. The book is a 2018 psychological suspense novel about a woman who returns home to find strangers moving into her property, setting off a dangerous chain of events involving her missing husband and hidden secrets. Join us on **September 22nd at 11:30 am** to discuss the book. The book Bag is available above the coat rack across from the kitchen. Please be sure to sign your book out.

COPE Breakfast Saturday, September 26 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The neighbors at COPE very much appreciated the last breakfast, so we're doing it again! We're going to need your help to make this a success! There will be a sign up online, and on the table by the bulletins. Many hands make light work. The assumption is usually that there is more than enough help. The fact is, it's usually just a handful of dedicated helpers. If we want to continue offering this very appreciated event to our friends at COPE, we need as many hands as we can to make it a success. Thanks for any help you can give! See the sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary or please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net) if you'd like to help with this ministry.

Pet Blessing and Celebration of Creation

We will offer a chance to have our pets blessed on **Wednesday evening, October 7**. Please load up your pets and feel free to join us in some holy chaos as we gather for a pizza dinner (and pet treats) and bless our animal friends. We are hoping to have an animal encounter of some kind this year, details will be coming soon! This is a great event for the young and the young at heart. Please join us, and feel free to bring friends! RSVP's to Kate are helpful just to get a sense of numbers, but we'll plan for plenty of food and friends!

Red Cross Blood Drive in Honor of Amy Churchill

Our quarterly blood drive for the fall will be on **Saturday, October 17!** Our blood drives began with our friend Amy, who was battling Metastatic Breast Cancer. Her goal was to give back the amount of blood she had used through the course of her treatments. We believe she had done all of that and more in the many blood drives she hosted.

Amy's Blood Drives have become a core ministry for us at St Augustine's, so we will continue them in her honor. If you can help with this drive, or have friends who would like to give back to others by donating blood, please join us at St. Augustine on the 17th. The need for blood is dire right now, please be sure to share the blood drive, even if you are unable to give. We would love to exceed our goal! If you have any questions, please contact [Mary](#). Appointments are scheduled in 15 minute increments (Whole Blood) and on the hour (Power Red). To schedule, use the link in the newsletter or the paper copy near the bulletins.

"Feast of All Chilis" Cookoff and Scenes from A Christmas Carol

We'll once again celebrate our Feast of All Chilis this coming November on **Sunday, November 15th, 5-7 pm!** You can sign up to bring a chili and compete by e-mailing Kate at ministries@sainta.net. Over the past few years, we've been entertained by a whodunnit floor show with enthusiastic players drawn from our parish's hidden thespian reserves ... this year, with our director on a brief medical leave, we're going to do pop-up readings of scenes from A Christmas Carol! Fr Ben will be selecting our scenes (so feel free to e-mail him if you have a favorite to include) and we'll invite people to stand up and choose parts scene by scene ... if you have a hidden talent for the stage but no time to rehearse, this is a great chance to share it! We'll create our own floor show as we sample chilis and vote for a winner. Bring-Your-Own-Props are welcome!

OUR NEIGHBOR, THE EARTH

How She teaches us to heal

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT AGE 18+

Saturday, Oct. 10 - Monday, Oct. 12

PRAIRIEWOODS RETREAT CENTER

120 E Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA 52233



How does God's Creation teach us to build God's Kingdom? What can we learn from nature to help us heal a world torn apart by violence and consumption? Young adults are invited to explore these questions amidst the beauty of the Prairiewoods Retreat Center, guided by the wisdom of Indigenous spirituality found in Robin Kimmerer's book, "The Serviceberry".

Scan the QR code to register or visit bit.ly/YARetreatFall26

HOSTED BY The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa + The Benedictine Way

Young Adult Retreat

Our Neighbor, The Earth is an overnight retreat **Oct. 10-12**, starting that Saturday afternoon at 2pm and ending on Indigenous Peoples' Day that Monday at 5pm. The theme is "Our Neighbor, The Earth: How She teaches us to heal". This retreat is a continuation of the joint young adult retreats that The Benedictine Way has held with the Diocese of Iowa. The age range is wider than the "Here I Am" retreat. You must be at least 18, and the program is designed for a mixed group of young adults in their 20s and 30s. **Registration Deadline: September 25, 2026**

Save the Date

September

Saturday, September 26th

Sunday, September 27th

COPE Breakfast 9:00 am

Instructed Eucharist at both Services

Youth Service w/ Children's sermon 10:30 am

October

Saturday, October 3rd

Wednesday, October 7th

Saturday, October 17th

Sunday, October 18th

Sunday, October 25th

Wednesday, October 28th

Unplug the Xmas Machine Event – St Andrews

Blessing of Pets and Animals

Blood Drive w/ Red Cross

Worship led by The Benedictine Way

Stewardship Ingathering

Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30 am

“Boo Bash” Halloween Party

November

Sunday, November 1st

Sunday November 8th

Friday, November 13th

Sunday, November 15th

Sunday, November 29th

All Saints Day

CLAY Meeting 11:45 am

Youth Lock-In

Chili Cook-Off

Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30 am

Ministers of the Day	This Week 9/20/26	Next Week 9/27/26
Musicians 8:30am:	Benedict Varnum	Joyful Noise
Musicians 10:30	Claire Eason	TBD
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Pam Wright	Jim Lewis
Acolytes 10:30am:	Warren, Danica, Gage	Luke, Ferris, Nathan
10:30 am Greeter:	Jean Lahti	Jean Lahti
8:30 am Lector:	Mary Jane Smith	Bill Smith
10:30 am Lector	Jean Lahti	TBD
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Charlene Freiberg	Mary Jane Smith
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Kathy Pospichal	Carol Ott
A/V Tech 8:30 am	Dave Wright	Rich Hill
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Erin Vest and Dave Wright	Alice and Joe Threlkeld