

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ANTE-COMMUNION: RITE II
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 AT 10:00AM



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Lancaster. Whether it be in person or online, we are grateful to worship with you. During this time when we are called to practice social distancing and mask wearing, we pray you will find St. John's to be a place of hope and connection. We believe God is at work in our lives and in our community and invites us to join in the healing and reconciliation of the world. Please know there is a place for you in the life and ministry of St. John's. To explore the various ways to stay connected please check our [Website](#), [Facebook](#) page, and [YouTube](#) channel for additional information and resources. As always if you need prayer, encouragement, or community our door is always open.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Chorale

OPENING HYMN

O for a thousand tongues to sing

HYMN 493

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Officiant

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

People

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 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.*

THE TRISAGION (*spoken*)

BCP 356

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 230

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

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.*

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 17:1-7 (*please be seated*)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ Hear my teaching, O my people; *
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
² I will open my mouth in a parable; *
 I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

- ³ That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- ⁴ We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- ¹² He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- ¹³ He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- ¹⁴ He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- ¹⁵ He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- ¹⁶ He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

SECOND LESSON: 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.

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

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
 3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 21:23-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *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.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

THE REV. MATT MACDOUGALL

THE NICENE CREED (*Please stand*)

BCP 358

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. (*pause*)
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 (*kneeling*)

BCP 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We lift up All Saints, Hanover and St. Andrews, Harrisburg in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; we pray for Donald, our President; Tom, our Governor; and Danene, our Mayor, we pray also for all those serving in the armed forces; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially Marita Houston, Edlu Harper, Dorothy Welsh, Ty and Carole, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died; especially Warren Harper and Robert Pfeiffer, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We invite your own prayers of intercessions and thanksgivings at this time.

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant 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 *(take a moment to send someone a text, an email, or post on social media!)*

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

Thank you for your continual support of the mission and ministry of St. John's. Contributions can be placed in the offertory plate as you exit, given online on our website, or mailed to the church office (321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster, PA 17603). Again, THANK YOU!

MUSICAL OFFERING *How lovely is thy dwelling place*

David Weaver Solo,
acc. Paul West

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Officiant 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.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, we join in offering the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving to you. We present to you ourselves, our souls and our bodies, with the earnest longing that we may ever be united to you. And since we cannot receive the Holy Sacrament, come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you, and love you with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength. Let nothing ever separate us from you. Let us live and die in your love. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing*

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GOOD NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

POSTLUDE *Now thank we all our God*

LORD, DISMISS US WITH THY BLESSING

HYMN 344

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Ante-Communion Rite II
11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
11:30 a.m. Search Committee Meeting (Parish Hall)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:30 a.m. The Village (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
2:30 p.m. Food Pantry
6:00 p.m. VH Dance (Auditorium)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 a.m. The Village (Morning Session)
12:00 p.m. A Service of Healing and Hope (Sanctuary)
7:00 p.m. The Dream of God Discussion (Zoom)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:00 p.m. Blessings of the Animals (St. Thomas)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Parish Hall)
10:00 a.m. Ante-Communion Rite II
11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Weekly Support Ministries

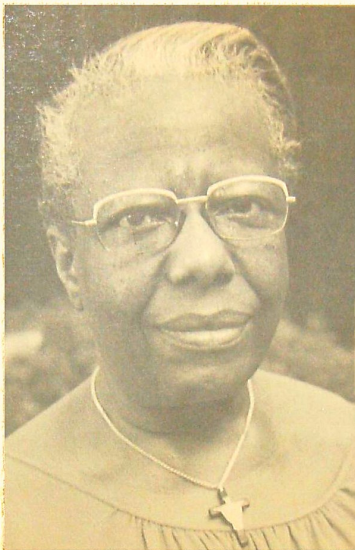
AA: Tuesday - 6:00 -7:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room)
NA: Wednesday - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room)

FOOD PANTRY— Thank you for your continual support of our food pantry ministry. Your donations allow us to feed so many neighbors struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. Thank you for being good news to those in need. We are currently in need of toiletry items, cereal, pasta, and canned goods. (please leave on the back porch of Becker House).

All Parish Read

Join us as we discuss our
September book, "The Dream
of God" by Verna J. Dozier.
Even if you haven't had a
chance to read the book you
are welcome to join the
conversation and fellowship!

September 30
@ 7:00 PM



The important question to
ask is not,

'What do you believe?'

but

'What difference does it
make that you believe?'

Does the world come nearer
to the dream of God because
of what you believe?

- Verna J. Dozier

ZOOM MEETING
MEETING ID: 815 4615 9446
PASSCODE: 084745



A BUNCH OF CHURCHES ARE GETTING TOGETHER FOR:

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

Join us as we give thanks for our pets, celebrate creation, and remember the ministry of St. Francis.

WHERE: ST. THOMAS CHURCH
301 SAINT THOMAS ROAD, LANCASTER, PA 17601
WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 6:00 PM

During the outdoor service, a free will offering will be collected for Heifer International, a development organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector
matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Debbie Carter (Senior Warden), Webb Cook (Junior Warden), Sue Heilman,
Tim Huber, Molly Moyer, Nicole Pham, Heather Trenary,
John Gouveia, Joe Way, Annie Lattanzio Hale

STAFF

Equilla Curry, Parish Administrator
Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary
Richard Kuhn, Sexton
Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky, Nursery and Security

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. William Archer
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

SERVING AT THE LITURGY

Celebrant
Preacher
Lector
Ushers

Web Streaming

The Rev. Matt MacDougall
The Rev. Amanda R. Knouse
Ken Kiedrowski
Paul Dorgan, Toni Ehrhart
Annie Lattanzio-Hale, John Gouveia
Joe Way

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE