

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



**HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP**  
**JULY 12, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.**

## **WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to *Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.*

### **TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING**

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. Thank you for being here!

### **A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP**

Our service comes from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, and the 1982 Hymnal. This service is filled with vibrant music, the reading of sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. With processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

In addition to Sunday services, we also offer a Healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon and on Thursday at 9:00 a.m., Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. All are welcome to join!

### **FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS**

Our friends at home: Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Peggy Zuke, Theresa Sullivan, Peggy Buscher, Jim Crothers

Our prayer list: Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Ann Marie, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, John Lawrence, Elly, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz Skiles, Maria Wright, Denise Chandler, Kate Benson, Garth Alexander



your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

*People*                      The word of the Lord.  
                                      *Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM 119:105-112**

- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet \*  
    and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn and am determined \*  
    to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled; \*  
    preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, \*  
    and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, \*  
    yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, \*  
    but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; \*  
    truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes \*  
    for ever and to the end.

**THE EPISTLE: Romans 8:1-11**

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**GRADUAL HYMN**

*Lord, make us servants of your peace*

**HYMNAL 593**

*vs. 1-2 before the Gospel reading; vs. 3-4 after the Gospel reading*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23** *(please rise in body or spirit)*

*Celebrant*

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

*People*

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

**SERMON**

The Rev. Amanda Knouse

**THE NICENE CREED** *(please rise in body or spirit)*

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human. *(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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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** *(please kneel as you are able)*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

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 especially All Saints Church, Leighton;  
St. John's, Lancaster; and the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey and Kevin, our Bishops; 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.

*(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.

*(The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God;  
*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.  
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.

*Celebrant*      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** *(please rise in body of spirit)*

*Celebrant*      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*            *And also with you.*

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST



*Thank you for your generosity as we seek to live into our mission and ministries. Together, our gifts make this community of welcome, reconciliation, and service possible. You can place your offering in the plates when they are passed or by using our secure QR Code. Thank you for sharing your gifts!*

### THE OFFERTORY

*All Good Gifts*

Tebelak & Schwartz

### THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**HYMNAL 380 v.3**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

**EOW**

*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 our thanks and praise.*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

### THE SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

**HYMNAL S-125**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with St. John, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## THE INVITATION

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.

## ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

*The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*You Are Mine  
Gift of Finest Wheat*

David Haas  
John Michael Talbot

## SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

*Celebrant* In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* *We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**EOW**

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.

## THE BLESSING

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*O Christ, the Word Incarnate*

**HYMNAL 632**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People* *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

## POSTLUDE

*Postludium*

Theodore Dubois

### **St. John's Traveler Letter:**

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Greetings from the beautiful country of Kenya, where I have been fortunate to visit many times. Despite my joy over returning to Kenya, I am writing to you with a heavy heart. Over the past several days, I have learned about life in South Sudan, one of Kenya's neighbors, and I ask that you and our St. John's family keep this fragile country in your prayers. Fifteen years ago on July 9, South Sudan declared independence from Sudan, and it remains the newest, globally recognized country in the world. It is also one of the most dangerous, poor, and unstable countries in the world.

I learned about South Sudan, a land-locked country in central Africa, from my new friend who has been working with a humanitarian relief organization in Juba, the capital. There are dozens of non-governmental organizations and charities in South Sudan that provide badly needed healthcare, food security, and education. Many groups also are working to promote peace among the country's warring tribes and ethnic groups. My friend is in Nairobi to purchase supplies to take back to Juba because it is difficult and expensive to get even basic supplies there. She also told me that there is no good system for distributing clean water in South Sudan, electricity is scarce, and that more two-thirds of the population require humanitarian assistance. Armed conflict and spillover violence from the war in neighboring Sudan also threaten the people of South Sudan.

My friend did share some hope with me. From time to time, she is able to attend church at the All Saints Cathedral in Juba. Churches in South Sudan, where the population is approximately 60% Christian, have long played a key role in civil society and bridging tribal divides. The cathedral, which was built in 1962, has five full services on Sundays and also serves as a community gathering place. My friend told me about the warmth and kindness of the people in South Sudan, and how the kids love to play soccer, basketball, and volleyball together after the services. She also showed me a picture of this year's Easter service, and it was full of joy!

There is so much to pray about in South Sudan. I will hold the people of this country and those who care for them, including my new friend, in my heart for a very long time.

Blessings Always,  
John the Traveler

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

**THE SISTERHOOD  
OF ST. JOHN'S**

*at Long's Park*

June 14 | July 19 | August 16  
5 - 7 p.m. Dinner and Conversation  
7 p.m. Live Music (*families invited to join!*)

Get to know the Women of St. John's •  
Bring something for Dinner •  
Stay for some Live Music!

*Sisterhood is more than friendship. It's a sanctuary. A place where we gather the broken pieces of ourselves and find that we are not alone in the mending. A place where we celebrate victories and joys. It is the sacred bond that reminds us we were never meant to walk this path alone.*

*In a world that tries to pit women against each other, sisterhood is an act of defiance. It is a quiet revolution - the deep knowing that we are stronger together.*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**VACATION TIME FOR THE KNOUSE'S**

Amanda will be on Vacation until July 17. *(She will be back for Emma's ordination and worship the weekend of July 11-12).* If there is a pastoral emergency please contact the office and Father Joe.

**YARD GIVE COLLECTION | SUNDAYS IN JULY!**

It's time to collect donations for this year's Yard Give! We are looking for the following items: Household items (think pots, pans, dishes, silverware, countertop appliances, etc.) clothing (especially children's clothes), toys, sporting goods, linens. Please make sure items are in good condition and clean! Thank you!

**SISTERHOOD OF ST. JOHN'S | TODAY AT LONG'S PARK 5:00 P.M.**

All the women of the parish are invited to bring something to nibble on while we gather and share our stories with one another. From 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. we'll form friendships, support and encourage one another, and get to know each other on a deeper level. We will meet next to the children's playground/restrooms. Look for the sisterhood signs!

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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

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**SUNDAY**

*Lemonade Time at 9AM*  
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist II with Choir  
1:00 PM Education for Ministry

**MONDAY**

*Administrative Day (office closed)*

**TUESDAY**

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry  
2:30 PM Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

**WEDNESDAY**

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing  
2:00 PM Weekly Bible Study

**THURSDAY**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
2:30 PM Food Pantry

**FRIDAY**

*Rector's Day off*

**SATURDAY**

9:00 Community Breakfast

## WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

## OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

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

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

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector  
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Rob Kazee, Ecumenical Associate

## VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Mary Huber (*Jr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*),  
Emma Luck (*Secretary*), Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Mary Huber,  
Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

## DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

## STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian  
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**

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