

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP
JULY 26, 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, 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, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, John Lawrence, Elly, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz Skiles, Maria Wright, Denise Chandler, Kate Benson, Garth Alexander, Isaac Markovich, Maria Sauder, John

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Communion

Camille Saint Saens

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Worship the King

HYMNAL 388

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

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.*

GLORIA

Glory to God

HYMNAL S-280

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 29:15-28 *(please be seated)*

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you

than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105:1-11,45b

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
45b Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Spread, O spread, thou mighty word* **HYMNAL 530**
 vs. 1-2 before the Gospel reading; vs. 3-4 after the Gospel reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 (*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 put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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 St. Paul's, Montrose; St. Matthew's Chapel; St. Andrew's, Lewisburg; and The Anglican Church of Tanzania.
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, especially Ricky Smith, 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 *Allegro on a Gregorian Chant* Dom Clement Jacob, O.S.B.

THE DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;* **HYMNAL 380 v.3**
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

*O day of God, draw nigh
Thy kingdom come, O God*

HYMNAL 601

HYMNAL 613

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

Be Thou My Vision

HYMNAL 488

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

Lo Ballo dell' Intorcia

Antonio Valente

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Jambo from Tanzania! Jambo means "hello" in Swahili, one of the most prominent languages spoken across East Africa. Since I last wrote to you from Egypt, I have traveled over 2,000 miles to Tanzania, a beautiful country that is the largest in East Africa. Everywhere I look, I marvel at God's creation. Did you know that Tanzania is home to Africa's tallest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro, as well as the world's second-deepest freshwater lake? My new friends, Ali and Zainab, have taken me to several national parks, where we have seen lions, giraffes, wildebeest, elephants, cheetahs, and a rhinoceros or two! People here are devoted to conservation, and I was delighted to learn that 40 percent of Tanzania's land, which includes 21 national parks, game reserves, and conservation areas, is protected.

I am writing to you from the city of Arusha in northern Tanzania, which sits at the base of Mount Meru. The snow-capped peaks are majestic, and I can also see Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance. Ali and Zainab invited me to their hometown, which is one of Tanzania's fastest growing cities. Many people come here to begin their safari adventures because it is near the Serengeti National Park. It is also a crossroads of culture, because it is a business and diplomatic hub. I had a delightful afternoon strolling through the open-air markets and admiring beautiful local handicrafts and artwork. I also saw exquisite pieces of jewelry made with tanzanite, a brilliant gemstone that is only found in the Merelani Hills near Mount Kilimanjaro. Some say that tanzanite is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds! Earlier this week, I returned to Zanzibar Island, a beautiful place in the Indian Ocean, which I visited three years ago when I first traveled to Tanzania. The water remains the most pristine turquoise blue I have ever seen. Zanzibar once stood at the intersection of the spice trade, the ivory trade, and sadly, the slave trade. So many cultures from its trading days have left a mark on this lively and colorful place. Churches and mosques stand not far from each other, one can easily see Arab, Persian, Asian and European influences everywhere.

Tanzania is full of natural wonders, history, and warm, hospitable people. I ask that you please keep them in your prayers. When I first visited three years ago, I learned about the economic challenges, poor infrastructure, and challenges in finding even adequate healthcare. These challenges remain, and Tanzania is on high alert against the spread of the Ebola virus, which has surfaced in neighboring countries. So far, there are no cases here.

Blessings always,
John the Traveler



Episcopal Night at the Stormers!



VS



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 645PM
(GATES OPEN AT 530PM)

PENN MEDICINE PARK

650 N PRINCE ST, LANCASTER

| **RSVP BY AUGUST 7** |

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAYS AT 2:00 PM | PARISH HALL

Every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., a group meets in the Parish Hall for a lively discussion of the Holy Scriptures. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend! All you need is a bible and an open heart. Please join us!

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!

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR FULTON ELEMENTARY

It's never too early to start collecting items for the Fulton Elementary School teachers! Every August, we celebrate the beginning on the school year with a Fulton Teacher Luncheon and school supply drive. Items can be brought to the church on Sundays or during office hours! Items to collect: Backpacks - Folders - Notebooks - Calculators - Pencil Cases - Art supplies - Binders - Glue Sticks - Pencils - Pens - Markers - Disinfectant Wipes - Scissors - Tissues - Tape - Etc.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Lemonade time at 9AM

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:15 AM Holy Eucharist II with music

1:00 PM Education for Ministry

MONDAY

Administrative Day (office closed)

5:00 PM Stewardship Committee

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

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

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