

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP
AUGUST 23, 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, 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, John, Rose

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As Longs the Deer

Hugh Wilson, arr. by Sunita Stanislov
featuring Robbin Hobbins, harpist

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

HYMNAL 427

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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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: Exodus 1:8-2:10 (*please be seated*)

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for

Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

	The word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

PSALM 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
 when enemies rose up against us;
 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
 in their fierce anger toward us;
 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
 and the torrent gone over us;
 5 Then would the raging waters *
 have gone right over us.
 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
 he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
 the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
 the maker of heaven and earth.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* **HYMNAL 522**
 vs. 1-2 before the Gospel reading; vs. 3-4 after the Gospel reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20 (*please rise in body or spirit*)

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Rob Kazee

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 Trinity, Mt. Pocono; St. James,
Mansfield; the Diocesan Audit Committee; and The Church of the Province of West
Africa;
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 Peggy Buscher, 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 or 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

Nimrod

Sir Edward Elgar

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

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

HYMNAL 677
HYMNAL 518

SENDING FORTH OF 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

The Church's One Foundation

HYMNAL 525

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

Royal Knights: A Ceremonial March

Christopher Tambling

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2:00 PM

Early Christians were called People of The Book. But they were also People of the Image. Art played an important role in spreading, communicating, and commemorating their faith."

What's happening in the painting?
A woman is weighing jewels in front of the Last Judgment?

"Woman Holding A Balance" Vermeer, 1665



Investigate

In five sessions, we look at faith in art, ancient and modern, sacred and secular.

Text is "Discovering God through the Arts" by Terry Glaspey, at no cost.

Author is CS Lewis scholar, theologian, and art historian.

Along with the book, there will be many extras!

Explore

- * Spiritual formation when we attend to the wonder and meaning of art
- * Lessons understanding scripture and navigating emotions
- * Art as comfort that expands empathy and justice
- * Images which enhance prayer and relationship with God.

Join us!

**Parish Hall – Wednesdays, 2-3pm
August 26 to September 23**

Questions?

Call or email Sea Macleish
717.413.1753 si-sea@comcast.net

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,

Maakye from Ghana, one of the countries in the Province of West Africa! Maakye means "good morning" in Twi, one of the traditional dialects in Ghana, where kindness, hospitality, and respect are woven deeply into the culture. It is a delight to be in this country, which borders the Gulf of Guinea on the south, Burkina Faso to the north, and sits between Togo and the Ivory Coast. Nearly 34 million people who represent dozens of ethnic groups live peacefully together here in one of Africa's most stable democracies.

I am writing to you from Accra, Ghana's vibrant and diverse capital on the coast. Today I worshipped at St. Joseph the Worker Anglican Church with my new friends, Kofi and Abena. They were honored to meet the new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally when she led an all-female service at their church in late July during her first official visit to Africa.

After church, I had lunch at Kofi and Abena's home, where I learned about Ghana's history. Over a delicious meal of peanut soup, they told me how much it meant see the Archbishop break the ground for the Church of Ghana's new pilgrim hostel. The hostel was established to support spiritual healing and cultural rediscovery for travelers of African descent. I learned that when Ghana declared its independence from Great Britain in 1957, it became the first sub-Saharan country to break from colonial rule. Ghana also has tragic history because of its ties to the transatlantic slave trade – Europeans built nearly 40 slave castles or large commercial forts that housed enslaved Africans in appalling conditions before they were sent to the Americas on British ships.

I have also learned about Ghana's culture. Families are treasured here, and many generations of one family often live together. Music is highly valued, and I enjoyed hearing ethnic music at a local festival I attended. Ghana has several national parks and many wildlife reserves and prioritizes wildlife conservation. I was delighted to learn that there 650 species of butterflies in the Kakum National Park! Finally, football – well, soccer to us – is the national sport.

I give thanks to God for my time here and for the people I have met. Please keep this country in your prayers. Last month, at least 12 people died in torrential flooding in Accra, and nearly 8,000 households were displaced. The heavy rains have also damaged roads and infrastructure while a drought in northern Ghana is threatening farmers and the livelihoods of many others. I will continue to keep you and my St. John's family in my prayers as I explore this beautiful world that God has entrusted to all of us.

Blessings always,
John the Traveler

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



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 Meeting

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

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

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)
Alisha Hurst, Parish Administrator (alisha@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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