

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP  
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 (look for the red signs). A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. In addition to worship, Sunday School takes place for our children & youth every Sunday at 9 A.M. in the Christian Education wing and Coffee Hour follows both of our services in the Parish Hall! Please join us for a cup of coffee or snack, so we can get to know you or fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offertory plate. 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, Kate Benson, John, Rose, Shannon & David Kitlinski, Maxwell Good, Garth Alexander, Herb, Madeline, Carolyn, and Jerry Hurlbert

## THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Priere a la Notre Dame*

Leon Boellmann

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *All Praise to Thee, For Thou, O King Divine*

**HYMNAL 477**

**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 in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

**HYMNAL S-278**

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*      God 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..*

## THE 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?"

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

## PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

- 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.

#### **THE EPISTLE: 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.

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

**GRADUAL HYMN**

*At the Name of Jesus*

**HYMNAL 435** (vs. 1-3)

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 21:23-32 (*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 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.*

**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)*

Gracious God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son,  
therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)*

God, enliven the church for its mission, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey  
and Kevin, our Bishops; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Kim, our seminarian. In the  
Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Trinity, Pottsville; St. Luke's, Mount  
Joy and The Church of Bangladesh.

*That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.*

Breathe fresh life into your people.

*Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.*

We pray for the world:

*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)*

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

*That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.*

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

*Teach us to care creatively for its resources.*

We pray for the community:

*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)*

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others;  
especially Donald, the President; Josh, the Governor; and Jamie, the Mayor.

*That all may act with integrity and courage.*

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. We pray especially for our friends at  
home; Ellen, Nancy, Joanna, Al, Mary Sue, Ellen, Edith, Merle, Peggy, Theresa, and Jim.

*May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.*

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit; especially Judy, Andrew, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted, Collin, Eileen, Sandy, Marshall, Leslie, John, Elly, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz, Maria, Kate, John, Rose, Shannon & David, Maxwell, Garth, Herb, Madeline, Carolyn, and Jerry.

*May they know the power of your healing love.*

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

*Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.*

We remember those who have died and those who mourn. We praise you for St. John and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

*May their example inspire and encourage us.*

*Celebrant*      Those things, good Lord, that your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant*      Let us confess our sins to God.

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.*



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with John, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. 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

*Rock of Ages  
What Wondrous Love is This*

**HYMNAL 685  
HYMNAL 439**

## 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**

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

Go forth now into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone. Love and serve the Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness*

**HYMNAL 492**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

Jacques Nikolaas Lemmens

### **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,

Namaskar from Bangladesh! This nation in southern Asia may be one of the most populated countries you've never heard of – there are 180 million people crammed into a place only a bit larger than Pennsylvania. And they're not alone: Royal Bengal tigers roam the mangrove swamps here, and rivers connect the towns and cities across the country. Many kids even go to “floating schools” on boats during the rainy season over the summer.

For the past few days, I've been in Cox's Bazaar, a place in the far southeastern part of the country between the Bay of Bengal and the international border with Myanmar, a country that used to be known as Burma. It's the site of one of the largest refugee camps in the world, with nearly a million of the Rohingya people here fleeing violence in Myanmar. Half of them are children.

The scale of this place is overwhelming – it stretches for miles, and while it's better conditions than what they experienced back home in Myanmar, disease is rampant, water wells sometimes dry up, and the Bangladeshi government only allows for limited education. Many Bangladeshi don't want the Rohingya here.

At the same time, the fact that Bangladesh allows these camps shows that they recognize the need to provide a safe space for these refugees. Community centers allow children, teenagers, and people of all ages a space to explore, play, and meet other people. Stationed throughout the camps are peacekeeping Bangladeshi soldiers; Bangladesh contributes more people to worldwide peacekeeping missions than almost any other country.

It was a reminder about how wonderfully complicated people are. The world is rarely as simple as we make it out to be. We can hold fear and generosity together at once, and even with this contradiction, we can find ways to care about each other. That was on full display here in Bangladesh, and I encourage you to seek compassion in the confusion as you go about your days this week!

Blessings always,  
John Traveler

*God invites us to be cocreators and share our **time, talent, and treasure** as we make something beautiful together. Here are some opportunities to get involved:*

## TIME

**BASEBALL BOOK STUDY** What can baseball teach us about the spiritual life? Join Fr. Joe for this four part book study exploring themes of Sacred Space & Time; Faith, Doubt, & Conversion; Micales, Blessings, Saints & Sinners; and Community & Coming Home. Sunday evenings **September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and October 11<sup>th</sup>** at **5pm** in the All Purpose Room.

## TALENT



**COFFEE HOUR** We need more volunteers to help serve coffee hour (and clean up afterward)! You don't have to be a barista or pastry connoisseur to share the gift of hospitality. Seasoned volunteers will show you the ropes in the kitchen and help you on your first Sunday. You can also host with a friend, family member, or someone you want to get to know better.

Contact [karen.dipace@gmail.com](mailto:karen.dipace@gmail.com) with any questions.

## TREASURE

**FOOD PANTRY TOILETRY DRIVE** The St. John's Food Pantry is collecting toiletries, diapers, and wipes this fall! We need all types of basic toiletries including toilet paper, bar soap, bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. We are also collecting diapers in all sizes and wipes. You can drop your gifts off Sundays before/after services, or Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am – 4pm at the Church Office.

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Head over to the St. John's website and click "Calendar" to see what's happening this week and beyond!

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Holy Eucharist at Landis Homes  
Blessing of the Animals  
Transitus of St. Francis

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2PM  
Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM  
Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM

## **OUR MINISTERS**

All Baptized Members

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

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector | [amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org)

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector | [joe@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto: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](mailto:music@stjohns-lancaster.org))

Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper ([finance@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:finance@stjohns-lancaster.org))

John Knouse, Property Manager ([property@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:property@stjohns-lancaster.org))

Alisha Hurst, Parish Administrator ([alisha@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:alisha@stjohns-lancaster.org))

Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian

Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

## **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Readers | Rob Kazee, Kluane Snyder

Litanist | Sue Zuke

Eucharistic Minister | Katie Mausolf

Altar Guild | Molly Moyer

Ushers | Team 4

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

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