



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 15

August 16, 2026, 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew or in the bulletin. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

The Word of God

Prelude

Please take your seat as the music begins and prepare yourself quietly for worship.

Processional Hymn: H 380, "From all that dwell below the skies"

Old 100th

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

Gloria: S 280, "Glory to God"

Gloria in excelsis

Collect of the Day

Proper 15, BCP, p. 232

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Response: Psalm 67, *Deus misereatur*

BCP, p. 675

May God be merciful to us and bless us, * **show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth, * **your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * **let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * **let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth her increase; * **may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing, * **and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 531, "O Spirit of the living God"

Melcombe

Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Philene Ware Dunn

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People

Prayers are adapted from Gail Ramshaw, ed., Intercessions for the Christian People (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990). If you'd like to add a loved one to the parish prayer list, please contact clergy or the parish office.

Let us call out to the Lord. **Lord, have pity on us.**

Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 360

Absolution

BCP, p. 360

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.

As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check or use the QR code at right to donate online. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.



The Presentation of Alms & Oblations: H 380, vs. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

Sanctus: S 129, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"

Prayer B (cont.)

BCP, p. 368

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP, p. 364

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem: S 161, "Lamb of God"

Agnus Dei

Communion

BCP, p. 365

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. The ushers will invite you forward to receive the blessings that come from God's altar. To receive the wafer, extend one hand over the other. If you wish to receive the wine, take a sip by guiding the offered chalice to your lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine yourself is not permitted. The bishop's customary requires the minister to do it for you. If you wish the minister to intinct, make a dipping motion or point to the minister when you approach. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than Communion, please cross your arms over your chest as you approach.

The table belongs to the Lord and the invitation comes from God. There are many kinds of blessing that come from it. Please come forward to receive them.

Communion Hymn: H 321, "My God, thy table now is spread"

Rockingham

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 533, "How wondrous and great they words, God of praise!"

Lyons

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charlotte Anne Ridley, by Craig Staresinich and Nita Amar.

Thank you to The Rev. Philene Ware Dunn who returns today to St. John's to celebrate. Welcome back and thank you for being with us. Fr. Kevin is out of town and returns to the office Tuesday, August 18.

Doctoral Defense. Stick around after worship today as Finance Committee Chair and acolyte Monti Zimmerman prepares to defend his dissertation later this week. For the past seven years, Monti has been working toward a PhD in Environmental Science and Public Policy at George Mason University. He's just completed fascinating research on protecting Thailand's rivers from heavy metal pollution. Join him today for a practice run with a friendly audience. Congratulations and good luck to Monti!

Serve St. John's. There are so many ways to serve at St. John's. We're looking for volunteers for communication, digital ministry, and Centreville Day. Our Sunday ministries continue to welcome new ushers, acolytes, readers, and more. We will call new Vestry members at the end of the year ahead of our next annual meeting. If you feel called to serve in some way, or are curious about these ministries, please contact Senior Warden Lisa Heller or Fr. Kevin.

Bible Study. Join us this week for the last class in our Summer with the Psalms! The book of Psalms is the Bible's hymnal, and a key to understanding all of Scripture. Each week, we read and discuss several of these vital songs. This week: songs of praise. We meet Tuesday at 7:00 PM and Wednesday at 11:00 AM. Jump in even if you haven't attended. Contact Fr. Kevin or Lisa Heller for additional details. Stay tuned for Ezekiel this fall and Isaiah on the Messiah in Advent.

Coffee Hour. Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Adult Lectionary Forum. The forum is on hiatus for the summer. We return next week on August 23.

Visit Us! For more information, visit stjohnscentreville.org and subscribe to our E-notes.

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TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant: The Rev. Philene Ware Dunn

Music Director: Mandy Hull

Vestry Member: Lee Griffith

Acolyte: Walt Cooner

Lector: Susan Davis

Alms Counters: Katharine Lavery, Marcia Evans

Altar Guild: Elise Crawford, Libby McCullough

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com

Lisa Heller, Senior Warden, SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com

Lee Griffith, Junior Warden, JuniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com

Mandy Hull, Music Director, amandahull101@gmail.com

Terri Katon, Parish Administrator, ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com

Jeanette Nord, Ministry Partner Liaison, mpl@StJohnsCentreville.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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