



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 16

August 23, 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 518, "Christ is made the sure foundation"

Westminster Abbey

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 16, BCP, p. 232

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

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.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth

beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Response: Psalm 138, *Confitebor tibi*

BCP, p. 793

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; * **before the gods I will sing your praise.**

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, * **because of your love and faithfulness;**

For you have glorified your Name * **and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me; * **you increased my strength within me.**

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, * **when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, * **that great is the glory of the Lord.**

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; * **he perceives the haughty from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *

O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Lesson: 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.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 304, "I come with joy to meet my Lord"

Land of Rest

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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

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

Sermon: Lisa Heller

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 pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear 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*

A Blessing of Backpacks and Devices

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 306, "Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest"

Sursum Corda

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 522, "Glorious things of thee are spoken"

Austria

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.

Vestry meets today after worship in rooms 217/218.

New Treasurer! Congratulations and thanks to our Treasurer-elect Nancy Scott. Nancy will be shadowing our outgoing treasurer Tom McDermott in these next months as Tom steps away. Be sure to thank Tom for his service and welcome Nancy to this vital ministry.

Thanks to Val Tucker, David Parker, and others for their efforts in recarpeting our library. Stop by the parish office to see the results!

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. Our Summer with the Psalms wrapped this week. Thanks to all who walked with us! Stay tuned as we tackle the prophet Ezekiel after Labor Day and then selections from 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 returns today after our summer hiatus. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

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

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TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski
Music Director: Mandy Hull
Vestry Member: Lisa Heller

Acolyte: Val Tucker
Lector: George Dewey
Alms Counters: Larry Pike, Lee Griffith
Altar Guild: Marie McDermott

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, [Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto: Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com)
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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
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