

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 28
November 15, 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. 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 9, vs. 1-3, "Not here for high and holy things" *Morning Song*
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 28, BCP, p. 235
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18
Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their

silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Response: Psalm 90:1-8, 12, *Domine, refugium* BCP, p. 717

Lord, you have been our refuge * **from one generation to another.**
Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,*
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, * **"Go back, O child of earth."**
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past * **and like a watch in the night.**
You sweep us away like a dream; * **we fade away suddenly like the grass.**
In the morning it is green and flourishes; * **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
For we consume away in your displeasure; * **we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**
Our iniquities you have set before you, * **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
So teach us to number our days * **that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 574, “Before thy throne, O God, we kneel” *St. Petersburg*

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the

talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Sermon: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

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.*

O God, for the sake of Christ, **have mercy 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 make a one-time donation via Square. 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 617, "Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round" *Song 1*
Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365
Announcements
Blessing
Recessional Hymn: H 680, "O God, our help in ages past" *St. Anne*
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 Donna Staresinich, Craig Staresinich and Nita Amar.

Growing the Kingdom! Our fall stewardship campaign continues! Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. John's for 2027. Fill out a pledge card, give it to an usher or place it in the model church, or pledge online using the QR code at right. Join us in Growing the Kingdom!

Thanksgiving Boxes. St. John's has committed to provide 35 boxes of groceries to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) for Thanksgiving. Please pick up a box in church or in the church office, shop for and fill the box with the listed items, and return it during worship or to the parish office by Thursday, November 19. Help our neighbors celebrate the holiday and rejoice in thanksgiving. Stay tuned for our **Angel Tree.**

Friendsgiving*, November 23, 6-8 PM*. Join us for a Friendsgiving potluck in the parish hall. We'll give thanks to God and thanks for one another as we celebrate the close of our annual pledge campaign. RSVP online.

Football Watch Party*, November 29, 4:25 PM kickoff*. Join us in the parish hall to watch the Commanders vs. Cardinals game. Details to follow. RSVP online.

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

Adult Lectionary Forum. 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	Lector:	Walt Cooner
Music Director:	Mandy Hull	Alms Counters:	Penny Parker, Larry Pike
Vestry Member:	Libby McCullough	Altar Guild:	Marcia Evans
Acolyte:	Emory Moore		

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF
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