ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 27
November 8, 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 436, "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates" *Truro*
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 27, BCP, p. 236
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24
Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise

of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

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

Response: Psalm 70, *Deus, in adjutorium* BCP, p. 672

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; * **O Lord, make haste to help me.**
Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, * **because they are ashamed.**
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"
But as for me, I am poor and needy; * **come to me speedily, O God.**
You are my helper and my deliverer; * **O Lord, do not tarry.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 53, “Once he came in blessing” *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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.*

O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

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 324, "Let all mortal flesh keep silence" *Picardy*

Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 68, "Rejoice! rejoice, believers" *Llangloffan*

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.

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.

Angel Tree. This year, we are providing gifts to children at Katherine Hanley House. We are working with Katherine Hanley and Lord of Life Lutheran for this outreach. **All the gifts need to be back by December 9th**. Gifts need to be new and wrapped with the Angel tag attached. For consistency and fairness, they are asking that all of the gifts are in a $35 range, including the gift cards.

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.

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

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	Acolyte:	Monti Zimmerman
Music Director:	Mandy Hull	Lector:	Jerry Pankey
Vestry Member:	Lee Griffith	Alms Counters:	Marie McDermott, Katharine Lavery
Usher:	Nancy Scott	Altar Guild:	Meg Crossett

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF
The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com
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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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