



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21

September 27, 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 435, vs. 1-4, "At the Name of Jesus"

King's Weston

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 21, BCP, p. 234

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

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.**

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the

transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Response: Psalm 25:1-8, *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

BCP, p. 614

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, * **and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * **for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; * **therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right * **and teaches his way to the lowly.**

Second Lesson: 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.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 477, "All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine"

Engelberg

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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 343, "Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless"

St. Agnes

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 574, "Before thy throne, O God, we kneel"

St. Petersburg

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.

Gratitude. Thank you to all who attended and all who made our Renewal of Ministry a wonderful one. Special thanks to our altar party and Vestry for leading worship; Music Director Mandy Hull and our Choir, who sang us into this new chapter; and our Altar Guild, who transformed the parish hall to host this event.

Centreville Day, October 17, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. This annual community celebration in the historic district features food trucks, local vendors, history, entertainment, and, of course, St. John's! The stage is in our parking lot, and we need you to make the day everything it can be. Look for the many ways you can participate before, during, and after this important event on our website. Sign up today!

Bible Study: Ezekiel. Our Bible study on Ezekiel continues. Ezekiel is a challenging text, home to some of the Bible's worst passages and to some of its most inspiring, powerful, and enduring. It's a roller coaster. Join us for the ride Wednesdays at 11:00 AM or Thursdays at 7:00 PM. For more information, see our website or contact Lisa Heller or Fr. Kevin.

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

Adult Lectionary Forum. Adult Lectionary Forum will resume next week.

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: George Dewey

Vestry Member: Libby McCullough

Alms Counters: Marcia Evans, Larry Pike

Altar Guild: Marie McDermott

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, 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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