



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 18

September 6, 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 400, vs. 1,4,5,7 "All creatures of our God and King"

Lasst uns erfreuen

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 18, BCP, p. 233

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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of

them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Response: Psalm 119:33-40, *Legem pone*

BCP, p. 766

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, * **and I shall keep it to the end.**

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; * **I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Make me go in the path of your commandments, * **for that is my desire.**

Incline my heart to your decrees * **and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; * **give me life in your ways.**

Fulfill your promise to your servant, * **which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread, * **because your judgments are good.**

Behold, I long for your commandments; * **in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Second Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 174, "At the Lamb's high feast we sing"

Salzburg

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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 309, "O Food to pilgrims given" *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*

Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 376, "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee" *Hymn to Joy*

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 for the celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary, by John and Valerie Tucker.

Celebration of New Ministry, September 20, 5:00 PM. St. John's is celebrating! The formal installation of a new rector is an important milestone in the history of any church, the celebration of a new chapter in our ministry together. On Sunday, September 20, we will welcome many special guests, local clergy and parishes, and many family and friends of Fr. Kevin. Following a worship service in our Lower Level Parish Hall (yes!), we will share an informal supper and continue the celebration. In the tradition of St John's hospitality, please sign up to help and bring what you can. We will need lots of helpers to welcome our many guests on the 20th.

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!

Preaching! Lay preaching has a growing place in the Episcopal Church, and, we hope, here at St. John's. Whether you want to pursue a license to preach, or just try it once, as senior warden and licensed lay preacher Lisa Heller has told us, the Gospel is a story you'll never get tired of telling. If you think you might be called to this ministry, or are just curious, contact Fr. Kevin.

Bible Study Returns! Our Bible study returns this week to jump in at the deep end of the prophetic canon: Ezekiel! 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. The forum is back from summer break. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join Fr. Kevin in the library after the service for more on the ministry of reconciliation and whatever else you might want to discuss.

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: Ann Goldberg

Usher: Lee Griffith
Lector: Susan Davis
Alms Counters: Penny Parker, Lee Griffith
Altar Guild: Marcia Evans, Libby McCullough

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, [Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto: Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com)
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