

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2020 · 9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.

PRELUDE: *Andante religioso* from Sonata No. 4 in B-flat major

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

RECTOR'S WELCOME

HYMN 409

The spacious firmament on high

Please stand as the procession enters.

Unison or harmony

1 The spa - cious fir - ma - ment on high,
2 Soon as the eve - ning shades pre - vail,
3 What though in sol - emn si - lence all

with all the blue e - ther - eal sky,
the moon takes up the won - drous tale,
move round the dark ter - res - trial ball?

and span - gled heavens, a shin - ing frame,
and night - ly to the lis - tening earth
What though no re - al voice nor sound

their great O - rig - i - nal pro - claim.
re - peats the sto - ry of her birth:
a - mid their ra - diant orbs be found?

The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
*Assisting Priest for Engaging
Faith and the Workplace*

Kaye Edwards
*Assistant for
Church Growth*

Brent Erstad
Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

The un - wea - ried sun from day to day
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
In rea - son's ear they all re - joice,

does his Cre - a - tor's power dis - play;
and all the plan - ets in their turn,
and ut - ter forth a glo - rious voice;

and pub - lish - es - to ev - ery land
con - firm the ti - dings, as they roll
for ev - er sing - ing as they shine,

the work of an al - might - y hand.
and spread the truth from pole to pole.
"The hand that made us is di - vine."

Words: Joseph Addison (1672-1719); para. of Psalm 19:1-6
 Music: *Creation*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809); adapt. *Dulcimer*,
 or *New York Collection of Sacred Music*, 1950, alt.
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THE WORD OF GOD

Please continue to stand.

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-7

Read by Katherine McClintic.

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel,
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

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

People: **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."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated.

Preacher and People:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

Led by John More.

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, responding with the words "Hear our prayer."

Leader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for *St. Margaret's Parish, Washington*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*, and for all bishops and other ministers. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

** In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.*

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. For **Donald**, our President, the leaders of **Congress**, the **Supreme Court**, and for all who serve our country. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially **Clark Agnew, Carys Beaumont, Kathryn Bubolz, Anita Diliberto, Brenna Duncan, Rob Ehrich, James Hahn, Jeff Hantson, Ann Kaye, Grant Kraus, Joshua Maxey, Livy More, Luke Parcell, Garret Rasmussen, Jessica Sanchez, Matthew Thomas, Andrew Tomlinson, Catie Warren, Caroline Lehmann Weng, Dan Williams, and Wes Williams**; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially **Krista and Larry Bradley, Karolina Arias and Peter Koch, and Elena and Marty Williams**; in thanksgiving for the marriage yesterday of **Caitlin Rooney and Austin Schrimsher**; and in thanksgiving for **Austin Robert Olson** who was born November 2. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially **Max Hudgins** and **Jimmy Lowe** who are in hospice care; and those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the **Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus**; for **those affected by the fires in California, Oregon, and Washington**. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Priest: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Lord, what a morning

Traditional Negro Spiritual

*My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
O my Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.*

You'll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.
Refrain.

You'll hear the sinner mourn,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.
Refrain.

You'll hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.
Refrain.

A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Priest and People:

Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our Annual Giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

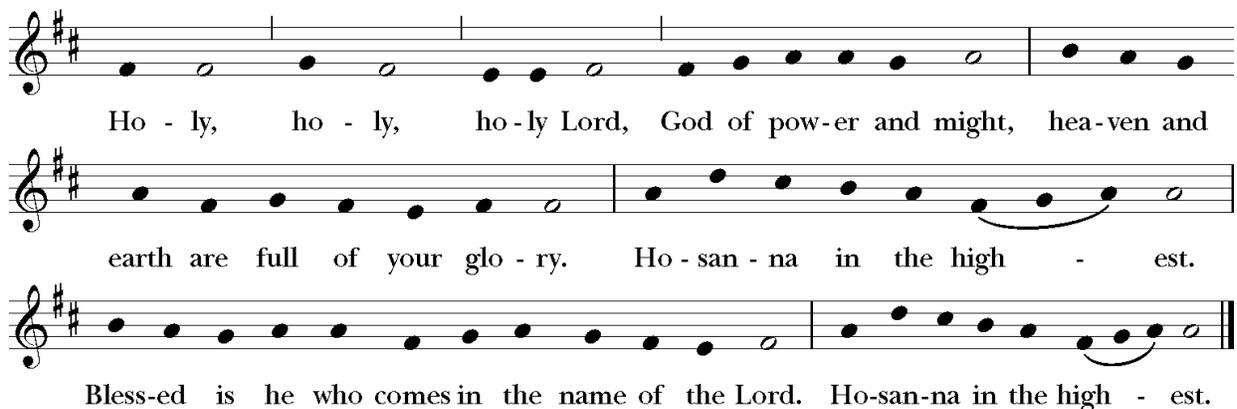
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (S-124)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Priest and People:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. During this time, our practice will be to offer the bread and the wine following health guidelines. An usher will provide communicants with hand sanitizer before the priest (who has washed his or her hands immediately prior) places a blessed wafer into your hands. Take a few steps, remove your mask, and consume the wafer. Blessed wine in small paper cups on a tray will be offered by a lay server.

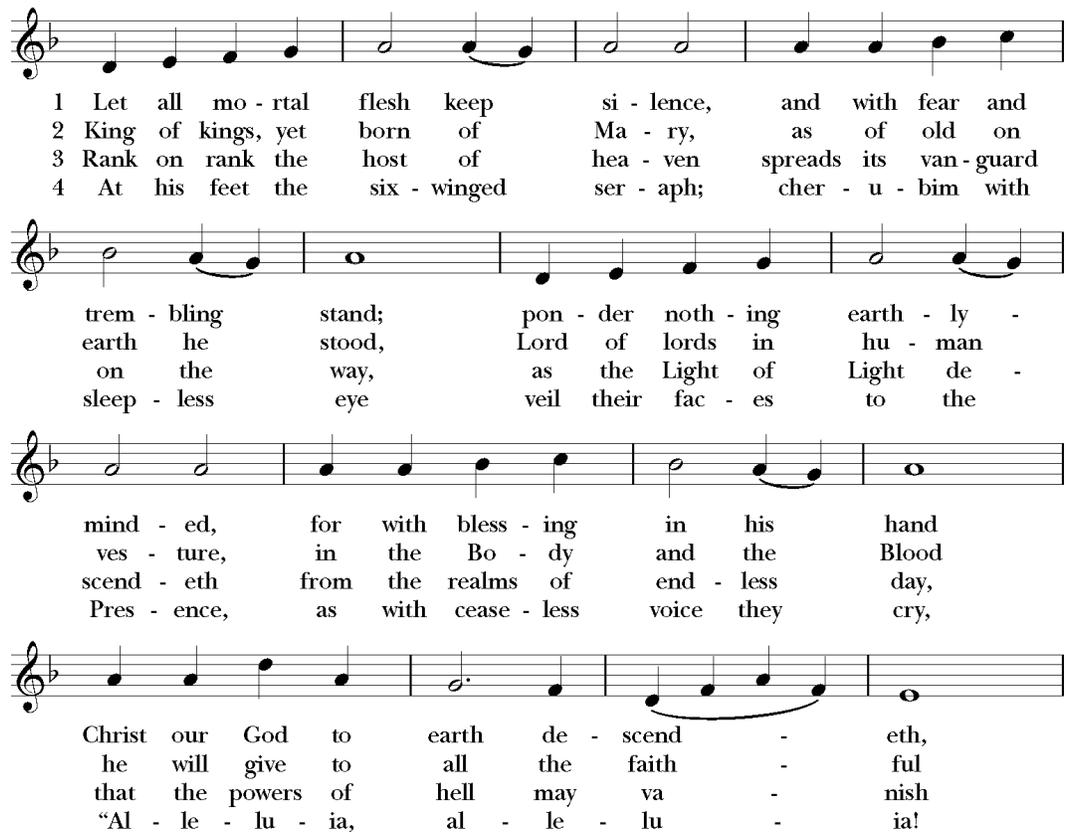
After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Receiving the bread only is a valid way to share in Holy Communion. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

Hymn 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea-ven spreads its van-guard
4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; cher-u-bim with
trem-bling stand; pon-der noth-ing earth-ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu-man
on the way, as the Light of Light de-
sleep-less eye veil their fac-es to the
mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
ves-ture, in the Bo-dy and the Blood
scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,
Pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry,
Christ our God to earth de-scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
"Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the dark - ness clears a - way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)
Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860;
harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Allegro maestoso e vivace* from *Sonata No. 2 in C minor* Felix Mendelssohn

ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY: Kenny Kraft, Crucifer.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the marriage yesterday of **Caitlin Rooney and Austin Schrimsher.**



Welcome!

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar,
and Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Staff

Kim Carlson

Director for Operations

Evangeline Gravina

Operations Assistant

Preston Cherouny

Financial Secretary

Sharlyne Griffin

Receptionist

R. J. Gravina

Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

Assistant Sextons

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