THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 20, 2023  ♦  Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

St. John’s is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.

SAINT JOHN’S CHURCH
LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

St. John’s is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.
Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.
All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in bold.
Nursery care is available from 10 a.m. to noon on the second floor of the Parish House.

Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.

VOLUNTARY
Prelude and Fugue in B minor, Op. 31
Rachel Laurin
(b. 1961, d. August 13, 2023)

HYMN 518
Christ is made the sure foundation
Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.

1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and corner stone, chosen of the Lord, and precious,
2 All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high, in exultant jubilation
3 To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today; with thy wonted loving-kindness
4 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ever

bind ing all the Church in one; holy Zion's pours perpetual melody; God the One in hear thy servants as they pray, and thy fullest
with the blessed to retain, and hereafter
THE WORD OF GOD

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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. Amen.

GLORIA (S-280)

Sung by all.  

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
2. Lord God, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
3. Lord Jesus...
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest    The Lord be with you.
People   And also with you.
Priest    Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
THE FIRST READING

Please be seated.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Read by Annette Anfinrud.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.

People  Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

Led by Christina Wilson, read responsively by half verse.

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Children’s Chapel in the Parish House: All who wish may gather in front of the pulpit during the hymn and will return at the Peace. Parents are encouraged to accompany children younger than three.
Thou, whose almighty word
Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanzas 1 & 2 will be sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 after.

1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,
2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing
3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters’ face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might; bound-less as o - cean’s tide, roll - ing in

Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!
in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!
gifts of grace, and, in earth’s dark - est place, let there be light!
full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt. Music: Moscow, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. The New Hymnal, 1916, based on Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).
THE HOLY GOSPEL

Please remain standing as you are able.

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

People    Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Gospeller  The Gospel of the Lord.

People    Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Following the Gospel, all sing stanzas 3 & 4 of the gradual hymn.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Laura Herzog.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Silence.

Intercessor 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.

Intercessor For the communities of St. John’s and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for St. Bartholomew’s Parish, Laytonsville. For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor 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 Joseph, our President, and for the leaders of Congress, the Supreme Court, and all who serve our country. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor 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.

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially . . . Grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially . . . Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially . . . , 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. Amen.

* In particular, Kwasa College in the Diocese of the Highveld.
CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

_Priest_ Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

_Silence._

_All_ 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.

_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. _Amen._

THE PEACE

_Please stand as you are able._

_Priest_ The peace of the Lord be always with you.

_People_ And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

_Please be seated._

THE HOLY COMMUNION

_You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate, or use this QR code to pay electronically._

_A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds._

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

_The gift to be simple_

_Sung by the choir._

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free.
’Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
’twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
’til by turning, turning we come ’round right.

—Traditional
HYMN 51

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

We the Lord’s people, heart and voice uniting
praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light,
faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim,
action, day of resurrection, day of the Spirit,
take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his people,
that he might appoint us a royal priesthood.

1. We the Lord’s people, heart and voice uniting, praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light,
2. This is the Lord’s house, home of all his people, school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim,
3. This is the Lord’s day, day of God’s own making, day of creation, day of the Spirit,
4. In the Lord’s service bread and wine are offered, that Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his people,


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People*  
**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS (S-129)  Sung by all.**

Robert Powell

Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*People*  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our ancestors in faith; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*People*  
**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**
Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

FRACTION ANTHEM (S-163) Sung by all.  
Robert Powell

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. At the communion rail you will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.
COMMUNION ANTHEM

Love bade me welcome Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Sung by the choir.

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

—George Herbert (1593–1633)
THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All 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.
When scheduled, the Priest offers a communion kit to any Lay Eucharistic Minister doing a home visit, saying

On behalf of God and St. John’s Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ’s Body and Blood. 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. Amen.

HYMN 420

When in our music God is glorified

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

When in our music God is glorified

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 When in our music God is glorified,
2 How often, making music, we have found
3 So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night?
5 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!

1 and adoration leaves no room for pride,
2 a new dimension in the world of sound,
3 in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
4 when utmost evil strove against the Light?
5 Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!

1 it is as though the whole creation cried
2 as worship moved us to a more profound
3 borne witness to the truth in every tongue,
4 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,
5 And may God give us faith to sing always

1-4

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Amen.
THE DISMISSAL

Priest   Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People   Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY
   Gavotte        Wilhelmine von Bayreuth (1709–1758)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

   Kenny Kraft, Crucifer
   James Doyle and Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Chalice Bearers
   Anthony Pegues and Nora Rigby, Assistant Head Ushers
   Grant Kraus, Hap Rigby, Diane Spaulding, and Tim Stuart, Ushers
   Christine Davies and Sara McGanity, Greeters
   Pat Dalby, Flower Guild
   Zoe Fisher, Livestream Technician

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.

If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.

ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN’S?

Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a “Welcome” card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. ♦ Free valet parking is available on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for the valet sign at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza (16th Street) and H Street, NW. ♦ Follow us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare. See photos from St. John’s musical performances, special events, meetings, Sunday services, and more. Relive the moment or experience it for the first time through the touch of a button on your smartphone.