



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✝ DECATUR, ALABAMA

www.stjohnsdecaturn.org

Office: 256-353-9615 ✝ Pastoral Emergency Line: 256-280-3792

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | JULY 26, 2026

8:00 AM | THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy and ensure all electronic devices are silenced.

Prayers and liturgy can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal. Hymns listed with an "S" in front of the number can be found in the front of the hymnal in the Service Music section.

Organ Prelude

Cornet Voluntary
George Berg

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	BCP 323
The Collect for Purity	BCP 323
Hymn of Praise	See Insert
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	1 Kings 3:5-12
The Psalm	Psalm 119:129-136
The Second Lesson	Romans 8:26-39
The Gospel	Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
The Sermon	The Rev. Melissa Hartley
The Nicene Creed	BCP 326
The Prayers of the People	BCP 328
Confession & Absolution	BCP 330
The Peace	BCP 332
Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers	<i>Inside Back Cover, BCP</i>

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory	
Presentation Hymn	Hymn 288
The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer 1	BCP 333
Sanctus	Hymn S114
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 336
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337
Fraction Anthem	BCP 337
The Post Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	BCP 339
Procession Hymn	Hymn 530
Dismissal	BCP 493

10:30 AM | THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy and ensure all electronic devices are silenced.

Prayers and liturgy can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal. Hymns listed with an "S" in front of the number can be found in the front of the hymnal in the Service Music section.

Organ Prelude

Cornet Voluntary

George Berg

Processional Hymn

Hymn 388

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Hymn of Praise

See Insert

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Sequence Hymn & Children's Chapel Procession

Hymn 635

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

The Sermon

The Rev. Melissa Hartley

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People Form III

BCP 387

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Inside Back Cover, BCP

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn

Hymn 288

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Sanctus

Hymn S125

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

BCP 365

Communion Hymn

Hymn 488

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

BCP 366

Procession Hymn

Hymn 530

Dismissal

BCP 366

All who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church. If you would like information regarding baptism at St. John's, please speak to one of the clergy. For reasons of public health, if you desire to intinct, please allow the Eucharist Minister to dip your host in the wine and place it on your tongue. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, simply indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

TODAY'S READINGS

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm 119:129-136

S415

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

¹³² Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your
Name.

¹³³ Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.

¹³⁵ Let your countenance shine upon your
servant *
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

SERVING TODAY

Ushers	8:00 AM Mike and Amy Faruqui	10:30 AM: Nadine Moebes, Bobbi Wilson
Lectors	8:00 AM: Nell Standridge	10:30 AM: Sarah Edman
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	8:00 AM: Bynum Kirby	10:30 AM: Betty Weaver, Bobby Straub
Acolytes	8:00 AM: Rebecca Self	10:30 AM: Kathy Landis, Gus Greenbaum, Parker Tubb
Media Ministry	Ann Stewart	
Flower Rearranger	Sharron Cook	
Flower Deliverer	Pat Price	
Vestry Person of the Day	Alex Adams	