



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✝ DECATUR, ALABAMA

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 20, 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

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	BCP 323
The Collect for Purity	BCP 323
Hymn of Praise	Hymn 421
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	Jonah 3:10-4:11
The Psalm	Psalm 145:1-8
The Second Lesson	Philippians 1:21-30
The Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16
The Sermon	Father Ackerman
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 408
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	Hymn S155
The Post Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	BCP 339
Procession Hymn	Hymn 541
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

Processional Hymn

Hymn 414

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Hymn of Praise

Hymn 421

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

The Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

Sequence Hymn & Children's Chapel Procession

Hymn 404

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The Sermon

Father Ackerman

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People Form VI

BCP 392

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Inside Back Cover, BCP

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn

Hymn 408

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

Hymn S155

Communion Hymn 1

Hymn 343

Communion Hymn 2

See page 5

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

BCP 366

Procession Hymn

Hymn 541

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Psalm 145:1-8

S415

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>¹ I will exalt you, O God my <u>King</u>, *
and bless your Name for ever and <u>ever</u>.</p> | <p>⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your
<u>majesty</u> *
and all your marvelous <u>works</u>.</p> |
| <p>² Every day will I <u>bless you</u> *
and praise your Name for ever and <u>ever</u>.</p> | <p>⁶ They shall speak of the might of your
wondrous <u>acts</u>, *
and I will tell of your <u>greatness</u>.</p> |
| <p>³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be <u>praised</u>; *
there is no end to his <u>greatness</u>.</p> | <p>⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your
great <u>goodness</u>; *
they shall sing of your righteous <u>deeds</u>.</p> |
| <p>⁴ One generation shall praise your works to
<u>another</u> *
and shall declare your <u>power</u>.</p> | <p>⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of <u>compassion</u>, *
slow to anger and of great <u>kindness</u>.</p> |

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

OUR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for family and friends who are ill or distressed, especially Molly Appleton, Russell Barr, Jenny Berry, Billy Biles, John Bolton, Walt Chenault, Andy Dye, Susan Easter, Margaret Emery, Jessica Kelly, Bobbie Patton, Earl Pettey, David Rahm, Richard Ray, Heidi Ross, Nick Roth, Robert Schafer, Melissa Schafer, Rebecca Self, Richard Shelburne, Steve Smith, Dot Straub, Howard Turpein, Jr, Glynn Tubb, Carolyn Tweedy, Lanelle Van Horn, Julie Warren, and Gretchen Willis.

We pray for those who serve in and with the Armed Forces, especially Michael Blair, Steven Blair, Jonathan Easter, Garrett McElroy, Eston Rogers, and Austin Wallace.

We pray for the departed.

We pray for persecuted Christians and refugees around the world; for an end to poverty, addiction, and violence of all kinds; for the students, families, teachers, and administrators of Banks-Caddell Elementary School; for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; for Commission on Spirituality Daughters of the King; and for St. Matthew's, Madison.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

and in celebration of the 7th anniversary of the Daisy + Chain + Brigade

Communion Hymn 2 (10:30)

All who hunger gather gladly
Worship Love & Praise 761



1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers, seek - er, be a
 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is

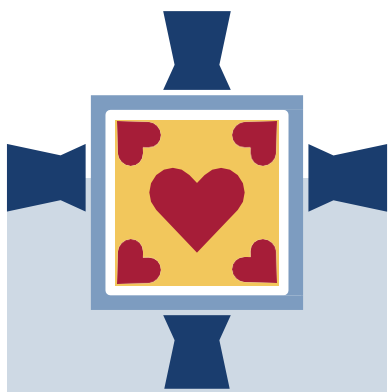
is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring.
 wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
 liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.

Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who

days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
 from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.

Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see that God is good.



Plenty Good Room

Questions for Reflection:

What is something risky that you have undertaken that has paid off in the long run?



The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons is rector of Trinity Church, Seattle and serves as

Treasurer on the board of TENS.



Invitation to Thrive

It's 7:45AM on a Saturday morning in May. I join 45 people gathered on a dirt lot around a table made of plywood laid over sawhorses. We sip from cups of hot coffee and someone offers a prayer. I grab workgloves from a bin and follow the sheetrock team.

The sheetrock team includes: Amelia, the future homeowner who will live here with her three children; Charlie, a retired history professor; Cameron, a pastor from another denomination. Together, we learned a new skill that day - to hang and mud sheetrock.

I kept going back to that worksite one Saturday a month until the house was built. It was a testament to community, overlapping human stories, joy, generosity, building God's kingdom on South Holly St.

Our congregations thrive because the people who sit in the pews volunteer to learn new skills and share experiences of creating a vibrant community. We know the power of having a common purpose to deepen our faith. When we open ourselves to volunteering, sharing our stories and skills, our ministry reaches far beyond what we can imagine or accomplish alone.

Will you join me in the adventure of trying something new? Meeting new people who share our core values, seeing our work build on itself and God's kingdom flourish? Would you commit to volunteer one hour a week (beyond worship time) for your church?

Yes, it's risky. It might require us to share our stories and find connections. The work we do might not be perfect by the world's standards (have you ever seen how many crooked nails are in a Habitat for Humanity house?). If we work together to create justice, make peace, spread joy to our neighbors, stand with the outcasts, the kingdom of God - where there is plenty good room for all people - will thrive. tens.org

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

THE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 8:00 am The Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
- 9:00 am Beans & Rice Pre-Pack, Parish Hall
- 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal, Church
- 9:15 am Nursery available until 11:45 am
- 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 am The Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Following the service, stay for cookies and lemonade on the patio
- 11:45 am Acolyte Training, Church

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 9:30 am ShowerUp, Hands Across Decatur
- 5:00 pm Cursillo Reunion Group, Library
- 6:30 pm Scout Meeting, Parish Hall

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 9:30 am ESL Class, Parish Hall
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 10:00 am Rector's Bible Study, Library
- 11:00 am Beans and Rice Bag Packing
- 12:10 pm The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing and Anointing, Chapel
- 6:00 pm Women's Book Club, Library

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 9:30 am Beans and Rice, Gordon Drive Entrance
- 9:30 am ESL Class, Parish Hall
- 5:30 pm Theology on Tap, The Brick Deli

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:00 am Men's Cursillo Reunion Group, Library

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 8:30 am- Touch a Truck, Ascend Performance
- 2:30 pm Materials, 1050 Chemstrand Ave

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 8:00 am The Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
- 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal, Church
- 9:15 am Nursery available until 11:45 am
- 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 am The Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

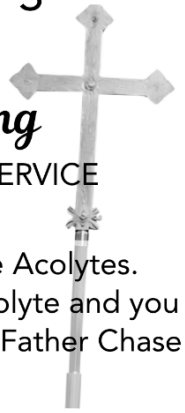
ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY!

Acolyte Training

FOLLOWING 10:30 AM SERVICE
IN THE CHURCH

Training is for all current and rookie Acolytes. If you are interested in being an acolyte and you are in third grade or older, contact Father Chase for more information.



TODAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY!

Beans & Rice This Week



TODAY! September 20, beans and rice pre-pack, Parish Hall.

Wednesday, September 23, 11:00 am, grocery bag packing in the Parish Hall

Thursday, September 24, 9:00 am, set up; **9:30-11:30 am**, beans and rice distribution, Gordon Drive entrance.

TOMORROW!



ShowerUp
Shower Grace. Hope. Love.

The next ShowerUp is on Monday, September 21, 9:30-11:30 am at Hands Across Decatur. Go to bit.ly/26showerup for more information and to sign up.



bit.ly/infostjohns

If you need help seeing the print in the prayer book and hymnal, large-print, spiral-bound Books of Common Prayer and magnifiers for hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LOVE GOD. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. LOVE YOURSELF.

SATURDAY!

PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER PRESENT

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

We need your smiles and friendly faces to help greet our community and our neighbors at PACT's Touch-A-Truck free community event on **Saturday, Sept. 26**, for a 2 hour shift between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm. Go to the sign up for more details.



bit.ly/26truck

COMING IN OCTOBER!

Plenty Good Room

WEDNESDAY EVENING STEWARDSHIP SERIES
OCTOBER 7, 14, 21 & 28

5:30 PM DINNER, 6:00 PM PROGRAM

Our stewardship theme this year, *Plenty Good Room*, invites us to look at our lives—and at the life of St. John's—through the lens of God's abundance. Join us Wednesday evenings as we explore the theme through different perspectives. Please take note, October 28 will be *St. John's Got Talent!* night. Sign up is open on the bulletin board by the parish hall.

Caregiver Support Gathering

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 1:00PM

Please note that the date for our next meeting has been moved October 15.

FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

BLESSING of the ANIMALS

WITH EVENING PRAYER

Sunday, October 4 | 5:00 pm
On St. John's Back Lawn



ALL ANIMAL FRIENDS,
ON A LEASH OR IN A CARRIER, ARE WELCOME!

Parish Picnic

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Parish Picnic is on **Sunday, October 18, from 3:00-5:30 pm**, at the home of Larkin Martin and John Thornton, 11280 County Road 150 in Courtland.

SERVING TODAY

Ushers	8:00 AM: D Hall	10:30 AM: Nadine Moebes
Lectors	8:00 AM: Bobby Greene	10:30 AM: Lauren Riddell
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	8:00 AM: Brian White	10:30 AM: Bobby Straub, Sue Powell
Acolytes	8:00 AM: Rebecca Self	10:30 AM: Sadie Wilson, Gus Greenbaum, Parker Tubb
Media Ministry	Kevin Wilson	
Flower Rearranger	Beth Weinbaum	
Flower Deliverer	Nora Hall	
Vestry Person of the Day	Emily White	

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 202 GORDON DRIVE SE | DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601
churchoffice@stjohnsdecatur.org | stjohnsdecatur.org | Monday–Thursday | 8:30 am–4:30 pm
Church Office 256-353-9615 | After-hours Pastoral Emergency: 256-280-3792