



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✝ DECATUR, ALABAMA

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | OCTOBER 4, 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

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"
Arr. Don Phillips

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	BCP 323
The Collect for Purity	BCP 323
Gloria	Hymn S204
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	Isaiah 5:1-7
The Psalm	Psalm 80:7-14
The Second Lesson	Philippians 3:4b-14
The Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46
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 380
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 S164
The Post Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	BCP 339
Procession Hymn	Hymn 495
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

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"

Arr. Don Phillips

Processional Hymn

Hymn 372

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Gloria

Hymn S280

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm

Psalm 80:7-14

The Second Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

Sequence Hymn & Children's Chapel Procession

Hymn 628

The Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

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 380

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Sanctus

Hymn S130

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

Hymn S164

Communion Hymn 1

Hymn 701

Communion Hymn 2

Hymn 458, v. 1-2, 7

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

BCP 366

Procession Hymn

Hymn 495

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Psalms 80:7-14

S415

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and
we shall be saved.

⁸ You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.

⁹ You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered by its
shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its
boughs.

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.

¹² Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its
grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed
upon it.

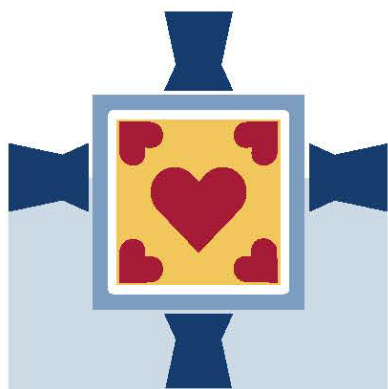
¹⁴ Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from
heaven; behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.



Questions for Reflection:

What might God be inviting you to release or clear away in your life so that something new can grow?



Shannon Whittaker is a member of St. David's Episcopal

Church in Cambria Heights, New York.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

Plenty Good Room

Making Room for Plenty Good Harvest

The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37 (NLT)

When I was a teenager, my grandmother loved her garden. She still does. Her garden required the kind of care that kept her hands in the soil and her attention fixed on the rhythms of the season. On warm afternoons she would call me outside to help her prepare the dirt, loosening the earth, pulling weeds, and clearing space for new seeds. I remember standing there sometimes, puzzled and very impatient. To me, the garden already looked fine.

After the winter season, I had grown accustomed to what it always looked like. To me, it was good enough. Why disturb what was already there? Why dig up soil that seemed just fine? The work felt slow and unnecessary, but my grandmother understood something I was still learning.

A healthy garden needs tending. She moved through those rows and buckets with patience, gently removing what did not belong, the stubborn weeds, the tangled stems, the crowded patches of soil that had no room left to breathe. She knew that if new life was going to grow, something first had to be cleared away. The garden would overflow with life, all because we made room.

Season after season, I was, and still am, amazed. Looking back now, I realize something I did not understand then: if the garden had stayed the way I wanted it, untouched, crowded, unpruned, we would never have seen that abundance at all. The garden required room, and a willingness to yield.

Sometimes that work feels uncomfortable. Sometimes it feels unnecessary. Sometimes we cannot yet see what God is preparing to grow. But the invitation remains the same: make room for new life, make room for deeper faith, make room for the Spirit to move in ways we may not yet understand. And when the seasons of harvest come, we may discover what my grandmother knew all along: when space is made in the garden, there is always plenty good room for the harvest. tens.org

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

THE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 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)
Cookies and Lemonade on the patio following the service
- 11:45 am Simply Divine Bake Sale Planning Meeting, Library
- 5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals, Back Lawn

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 5:00 pm Cursillo Reunion Group, Library
- 6:30 pm Scout Meeting, Parish Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 10:00 am Rector's Bible Study, Library
- 12:10 pm The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing and Anointing, Chapel
- 5:30 pm Stewardship Dinner and Program, Parish Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 5:30 pm Theology on Tap, The Brick Deli

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 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)
Cookies and Lemonade on the patio following the service
- 11:45 am Simply Divine Bake Sale Planning Meeting, Library

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The loose offerings on the first Sunday of each month and all checks so designated will be given to the Clergy Discretionary Accounts. These offerings assist those in need both inside and outside of the parish. Please note Clergy Discretionary Account on your check.

TODAY!



ST. JOHN'S

SIMPLY DIVINE

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00 AM-11:00 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 & 11

AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE | IN THE LIBRARY

Simply Divine season will be here soon! We'll get started with organizational meetings on October 4th and 11th in the Library. Stop by either meeting to learn more about the Bake Sale and all of the ways you can support this annual fundraiser for a local outreach organization.

WEDNESDAY!

Plenty Good Room

WEDNESDAY EVENING STEWARDSHIP SERIES
BEGINS OCTOBER 7

5:30 PM DINNER, 6:00 PM PROGRAM

Join us as we embark on our stewardship journey and discover all the Plenty Good Room we have at St. John's to know and share God's love! Menu for Wednesday is Sandwich Bar. Suggested donation for dinner is \$5, \$20 cap per family. October 28 will be *St. John's Got Talent!* night. Sign up is open on the bulletin board by the parish hall or call the church office.

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.



bit.ly/infostjohns

LOVE GOD. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. LOVE YOURSELF.

TODAY!

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

Celebrate and honor your animal companions and give thanks for them with a blessing that recognizes our deep bond with animals and the important role they play in our lives.

We are supporting Decatur Animal Services with a supply drive. Items needed: dry puppy and kitten food, cat litter, laundry detergent, bleach, towels, leashes, collars, and animal sponsorships. Please bring donations to the event. DCS appreciates every donation!

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



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GATHERING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 1:00PM

Please note the date change
for our next meeting

CANDY DRIVE! TRUNK SIGN UP! FOR ST. JOHN'S 3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

Looking forward to St. John's Third Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 29th! Costumes, candy, kids, and hanging out with friends on a fall evening! It's always a fun event.

Step One: Candy Drive! We go through A LOT of candy at Trunk or Treat! Please donate individually wrapped, snack-sized bags of candy to the marked bins in the Narthex and office hallway.

Step Two: Sign up to decorate your trunk and give out candy at the event. Go to bit.ly/26trunk to sign up or scan the QR code



GOOD FOOD, FINE FRIENDS
& THE GREAT OUTDOORS

PARISH PICNIC

HOLY SMOKERS' FISH FRY!
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE
AND A LAWN CHAIR!

Sunday, October 18 | 3:00-5:30 pm

The picnic will be at **Edgehill**,
Larkin Martin & John Thornton's river house,
4181 County Road 400, Courtland

OUR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for family and friends who are ill or distressed, especially Russell Barr, Jenny Berry, Billy Biles, John Bolton, Walt Chenault, Andy Dye, Susan Easter, 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, Amy Sykes, Glynn Tubb, Carolyn Tweedy, Julie Warren, Rachel Wiley, 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, especially Ann Key.

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 Cursillo #241 Pilgrims and Staff; for Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Domestic Violence shelters; St. Francis of Assisi, Indian Springs; St. Francis Chapel, Camp McDowell; and St. Wilfrid, Marion.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

and in memory of Peggy Heflin Gattis and in thanksgiving for Annie Cornell by Jennifer Jackson

SERVING TODAY

Ushers	8:00 AM: Harry & Cassandra Moore, Matt Pride	10:30 AM: Rip Nance, J. B. Wilder
Lectors	8:00 AM: Harry Moore	10:30 AM: Jerry Jacob
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	8:00 AM: Dodie Hall	10:30 AM: Sue Powell
Acolytes	8:00 AM: Rebecca Self	10:30 AM: Freida Pressnell, Leland Pressnell, Anne Hatcher Thompson
Media Ministry	Ann Stewart. Jason McCalpin	
Flower Rearranger	Julia Chenault	
Flower Deliverer	Emily Pyatt Vaughan, Faye Pyatt	
Vestry Person of the Day	Victoria Tumbleson	

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Rufus Van Horn, <i>Associate Rector</i>	rufus@stjohnsdecatur.org
Vickie Reed, <i>Financial Administrator</i>	vickie@stjohnsdecatur.org
Mary Coe, <i>Director of Communications</i>	mary@stjohnsdecatur.org

Lauren Riddell *Choirmaster*

William Polzin *Organist*

Gregory Jones *Seminarian*

Callie Melick *Nursery Attendant*

Rebecca Bailey *Nursery Attendant*

Paul Montgomery *Sexton*

VESTRY

Class of 2026: Nora Hall, Sue Hennessy, Julie Leavitt (Senior Warden), Lyla Peebles, Kevin Wilson

Class of 2027: Bynum Kirby, Jackie Joiner, Ann Stewart (Junior Warden), Suzanne Thompson,
Victoria Tumbleson

Class of 2028: Alex Adams, Rob Getman, Luke Slaton, Erika Huber, Emily White

Stuart Tubb *Treasurer*

Stan Evans *Assistant Treasurer*

Carol Sartain *Clerk*

Ken Schuppert *Chancellor*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

202 Gordon Drive SE | Decatur, Alabama 35601

Church Office 256-353-9615 | churchoffice@stjohnsdecatur.org

After-hours Pastoral Emergency: 256-280-3792

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | closed Friday

stjohnsdecatur.org

