



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✙ DECATUR, ALABAMA

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | OCTOBER 11, 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
Gloria	Hymn S204
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	Isaiah 25:1-9
The Psalm	Psalm 23
The Second Lesson	Philippians 4:1-9
The Gospel	Matthew 22:1-14
The Sermon	Father Van Horn
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 569
Dismissal	BCP 339

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 345

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 25:1-9

Psalm

Psalm 23

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

Sequence Hymn & Children's Chapel Procession

Hymn 515

The Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

The Sermon

Father Van Horn

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 684

Communion Hymn 2

Hymn 664

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

BCP 366

Procession Hymn

Hymn 569

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 25:1-9

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 23

S415

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



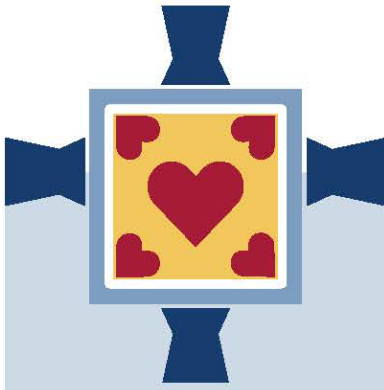
- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- ² He makes me lie down in green
pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³ He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways
for his Name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You spread a table before me in the
presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the
LORD for ever.

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



Plenty Good Room

On Being Invited

Questions for Reflection:

Take a moment to thank God for all those who made plenty good room for you in the Church. How has that shaped who you are today?



The Rev. Ramiro (Ram) Lopez serves as rector of St. George's

Church in San Antonio and serves on the board of TENS.

Growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas I spent more time fishing in the surf of Padre Island than in going to church. Our Latino family roots were in Roman Catholicism but our church was the Gulf of Mexico shoreline.

How, then, did I grow up to become an Episcopal priest?

Thinking back I will say that my life today is the result of someone taking the time to invite me to Christ's table. First invitation was to the local Canterbury group (college ministry). Next came an invitation to attend worship at Church of the Good Shepherd followed by an invitation to serve at the Diocesan camp, Camp Capers.

One after another, the invitations kept coming. Each one led me to a community which always made room for me. I found belonging in a spiritual family. They made plenty good room for me and for my family and friends. Over and over again, the graciousness of Christ was extended to me. I found fellow travelers on the spiritual journey. More importantly, I found the gifts of God within me.

I suppose that I am an Episcopal priest because of all the people along the spiritual way who invited me into communities in which there was plenty good room. Plenty good room to discover myself. Plenty good room to discover God. Plenty good room to discover and discern how God was calling me to serve and lead.

I cannot imagine any other life than the one I have now - serving as an Episcopal parish priest! I am ever grateful for all the wonderful, lifelong friendships I have made. I cannot imagine any other job that would be so wonderful, so exciting and energizing as the ministry I have today.

I am so grateful for all the invitations and all those who made plenty good room for me! tens.org

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

THE CALENDAR

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) *following service, lemonade & cookies on the patio*
- 11:45 am Simply Divine Bake Sale Planning Meeting, Library
- 3:00 pm Young Adults Gathering, at the home of Joshua Bracken & Alex Adams

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Columbus Day, Church Office Closed

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 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 & Program, Parish Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 1:00 pm Caregivers Gathering, Library
- 5:30 pm Theology on Tap, The Brick Deli

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 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); *following service, lemonade & cookies on the patio*
- 3:00 pm Parish Picnic, 4181 County Rd 400, Courtland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY!



ST. JOHN'S

SIMPLY DIVINE

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00 AM-11:00 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE | IN THE LIBRARY

Simply Divine season will be here soon and we're getting started with organizational meetings. If you missed the meeting on the 4th, this Sunday is your second chance! Stop by 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

OCTOBER 14: CURSILLO NIGHT

5:30 PM DINNER, 6:00 PM PROGRAM

Get your singing voices ready as we gather to experience all that Cursillo has to offer! All are invited to join us for an evening of praising, learning, and reflecting on how the Spirit is working in our lives. Suggested donation for dinner is \$5, \$20 cap per family.

October 28 is **St. John's Got Talent!** night. Come

show your talents or enjoy the talents of others. All ages are welcome to participate! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the parish hall or contact the church office.

St. John's
got Talent

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.

TODAY!

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

St. John's members in their 20's and 30's (and their friends!) are invited to our monthly gatherings.

This month we'll meet at Joshua & Alex's for some socializing and planning ahead.

Email joshua.bracken87@gmail.com if you can come or if you have input.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
3:00-5:00 PM
AT THE HOME OF
JOSHUA BRACKEN
& ALEX ADAMS

THURSDAY!



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GATHERING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
1:00 PM, ST. JOHN'S LIBRARY

A monthly gathering offering a safe, compassionate space for caregivers to share experiences, find encouragement, and receive support as they care for those they love.

Contact Erika Huber at ehuber4404@gmail.com for information.

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!

You can help make Trunk or Treat a great community 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.



BACKPACK Ministry

The October Backpack Ministry sign up has many open spots! Come help us provide weekend food for school children experiencing food insecurity.

Go to sign up at bit.ly/fall26backpack or scan 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

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, Joe Burns, 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, 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 Carolyn Tweedy.

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 Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network); Homeless Shelters and Agencies that assist the poor and homeless; St. Luke's, Birmingham; St. Luke's, Jacksonville; and St. Luke's, Scottsboro.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Kathy Slaton by Luke, Caleb and Franklin Slaton

SERVING TODAY

Ushers	8:00 AM: D Hall	10:30 AM: Bingham Edwards & Alex Adams
Lectors	8:00 AM: Brian White	10:30 AM: Anne Ness
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	8:00 AM: Brian White	10:30 AM: Grant Thompson
Acolytes	8:00 AM: Rebecca Self	10:30 AM: Kathy Landis
Media Ministry	Kevin Wilson	
Flower Rearranger	Sharron Cook	
Flower Deliverer	Kevin Wilson	
Vestry Person of the Day	Bynum Kirby	

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Chase Ackerman, <i>Rector</i>	chase@stjohnsdecatur.org
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 *Chancelor*

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

