



# St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204  
The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 2023, 9 in the morning**

Typically, Episcopalians stand to sing and for the proclamation of the Gospel; kneel for confession and prayer; and sit while listening to reading or preaching. You will see some indication for those postures in the bulletin. Your presence is more precious than your posture: please stand, sit, or kneel as you are able and prefer.

**Welcome! We're glad you're here!**

Page references are to the red Book of Common Prayer. Music is indicated by "S" for service music (front of blue Hymnal), "LEVAS" for hymns from Lift Every Voice and Sing, and "WLP" for hymns from Wonder, Love, and Praise.

**PRELUDE** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

John Dykes

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**HYMN LEVAS 178** *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

***Please stand as you are able***

## GLORIA S 280

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## LESSONS

***Seated***

### First Lesson

A Reading from the book of Genesis. *28:10-19a*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven;

and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23** *Domine, probasti*

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"**

Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

## Second Lesson

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 302** *Father, we thank thee*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Stand as able*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 13:24-30, 36-43

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## HOMILY

### NICENE CREED

*Celebrant and People*

*Stand as able*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray.

We pray for the peace and unity of the Church of God, that all who know Christ may praise his name and serve the world by his grace. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For the leaders of all the Churches, and especially the leaders of our own Church: Michael, Mark, and Gayle, that the shepherds of Christ's flock may lead us with wisdom and gentleness. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For the leaders of the nations, that they might use the powers entrusted to them to build and not destroy, gather and not scatter. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For the lonely, the lost, and the hopeless in our community, that they may find comfort and that we may see in them the image of Christ. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For those in our community and throughout our region who struggle with addiction, that our concern for them may grow into Spirit-filled action. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For the sick, those who travel, those in any trouble, and all for whom our prayers are asked, especially:

*Names will be read aloud, and are invited to be spoken or prayed silently by the congregation.*

that they may draw strength from our prayers and actions. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For our partners in mission, including St. Patrick's, Falls Church. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

For all who have died, especially:

*Names will be read aloud, and are invited to be spoken or prayed silently by the congregation.*

that they may have peace, and that we may worship with them in the communion of saints. Lord of life, **let your will be done.**

*Celebrant concludes*

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Adoramus te Christe*

Dubois

**DOXOLOGY 380, V 3**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

*Standing, seated or kneeling*

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**SANCTUS WLP 858**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with John, Patrick, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

*The Bread and the Cup are distributed with these words*

The Body (and Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

**POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore. **Amen.**

**HYMN 344** *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Toccatà in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

**PARTICIPANTS**

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin, Rector  
Lynn Robinson, Minister of Music • Judith Marcinko, Organist  
Lin Novak, Usher • Carrie Harbin, Altar Guild  
Lynn Robinson, Reader • Barbara Olivere, Prayers of the People  
Patricia Broida, Intinction Cup Bearer  
Sandy Winger and Bryan Harbin, Tellers • Kathi Martin, Fellowship  
Peter Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

***Live-Stream Worship Continues on Sundays.*** We continue to use the following Zoom access link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVFSWDNIKoZDUT09> and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. The password is still 2020. Any other information remains the same. If you can't copy the link, go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join) and enter Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.

*If you don't have Zoom on your device you will need to install that prior to the service.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome:** We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and newcomers. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Or you may come forward and receive a blessing.

**Let's begin in silence.** The parlor is available for socializing before worship, and you are encouraged to make use of it to catch up with one another. This allows the sanctuary to be a quiet space for those who wish to pray or prepare themselves to read and gives the prelude its due attention as an invitation to worship.

**Emergency Pastoral Care.** For pastoral emergencies please call or text the Reverend Julie D. Bryant at 703-336-2255. Her email address is [rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

**Start shopping for the Annual School Supply drive.** Hard to believe, but it is time again for St. John's to help our neighborhood schools with school supplies. We have set Sunday **August 20** as the target to have all supplies in. The shopping list will be available at services, at the church office, and on the St. John's website. Please place the supplies you purchase either in the bin on Pritchards' front porch, 5713 Fifth St S., a half block from the church, or in the bin in the undercroft. Alternatively, you can write a check to St. John's with "School supplies" in the memo line, and we will do the shopping for you.

We primarily support Carlin Springs Elementary, but if we have enough supplies we also contribute to Campbell Elementary and Kenmore Middle School. All three are Title I schools, which have at least 40 percent of their students coming from low-income families. The need is great.

**Save the date.** St. Patrick's will host an evening outdoor picnic with music on Thursday, **August 10**. Details are coming.

**Joint Worship Service with St. Patrick's.** Mark your calendar for a joint worship service to be held at St. Patrick's on **September 10** at 10 am. The usual 9 am worship service will not be held at St. John's on that day. More details are coming.

**St. John's position on racism** can be found on the home page of our website, [www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

**Barbara Olivere maintains our common Prayer List**, and sends cards to people who are ill, as well as birthday cards and anniversary cards. Please communicate with her at [prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). If you are able to share in this ministry, please be in touch with the Rector or Barbara, as keeping in contact with one another is particularly important to those unable to be with us in worship.