



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 19, 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 *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Anonymous, The Netherlands

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

HYMN 561 *Stand up, stand up, for Jesus*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Please stand as you are able

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant and People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 397 *Now thank we all our God*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Seated

First Lesson

A Reading from the Book of Judges. 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

**Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,**

Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

Second Lesson

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Stand as able

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 25:14-30

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

THE 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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for peace and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.
We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Our prayer list is offered at this time.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Vision*

Steven Scott

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.

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 God thanks and praise.

Standing, seated or kneeling

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S 129

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he 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 shed for you and for many 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.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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

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

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

George J. Elvey

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 680 *O God, our help in ages past*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

John Hatton

PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin, Rector
Lynn Robinson, Minister of Music • Carol Dunlap, Guest Organist
Ed Martin, Usher • Faye Pritchard, Altar Guild
Lisa Pope, Reader • Barbara Olivere, Prayers of the People
Barbara Olivere, Intinction Cup Bearer
Bill Pritchard, Teller • Lynn Robinson, Fellowship
Pete Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

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. **Please join us for coffee hour** downstairs after the service.

Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 21, 11 am followed by lunch. Whether you are expecting a quiet Thanksgiving Day, joining family, or preparing for guests, you are invited to start the celebration around the altar and then the common table midday Tuesday. If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert to share, please do, but the only thing you need to bring is yourself! **Make sure you join the fun at the Thanksgiving lunch!**

Please remember those in need as Thanksgiving is near. Thank you, thank you, for the more than 100 pounds of food you donated to AFAC during October. Now St. John's is conducting a Thanksgiving food drive for AFAC through **TODAY**. You can pick up a bag to be filled with food while at church today, or through Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168. A shopping list and instructions are attached to the bag. Your filled bag can be returned to church or to the Pritchard's porch, 5713 Fifth St S, a half block from the church. You can also choose to make a check out to St. John's and include AFAC in the memo line. We will send AFAC a check. Your contribution will be included on your annual report. You can also donate online to AFAC at <https://afac.org>. As a guide, a \$35 donation will provide the basis for a Thanksgiving meal for one family. Please be generous.

Today, November 19, 4 pm, the Odeon Chamber Music Series features the Dancing Heart Ensemble. This group is a unique ensemble of flute, trombone and piano. The program is called "Mozart to Milonga," where the group will take you on a journey from exquisite classical music to exciting Latin rhythms with works by Mozart, Beethoven, Jobim, Peña, V. Coleman, J. McGrath, and more!

These concerts are held at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church 22042. Admission is free but a donation of \$20 helps them to defray costs and will allow them to continue to provide fine concerts.

An Angel Tree project from Prison Ministry. This year St. John's and St. Patrick's will partner with an Angel Tree project from Prison Ministry, which coordinates care for families when parents in the household are incarcerated. The complexity of circumstances that lead to incarceration, and trying to maintain or repair relationships during that time can be overwhelming. In order to keep adults and children from losing connection, this Angel Tree project includes personalized messages from the incarcerated person to their child, gift suggestions made by the child and caregiver, and then shopping and delivery to the household.

Julie Tran from St. Patrick's is facilitating this year's effort, having participated in the offering through her own children's community outreach projects. Look for stars with children's names, ages, and preferred gifts. Note on the accompanying chart which children you will shop for, and return your gifts to the church by Sunday, **December 3rd**. We hope to deliver gifts to families on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, or shortly thereafter.

There will be some sorting and additional shopping to do, as well as delivering gifts to caregivers, and perhaps a need for gift-wrapping materials as well. If you can help with those aspects of the project, please indicate that on the chart.

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.

Rev. Bryant also serves as Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church. They celebrate their Sunday service at 11 am where you are welcome to attend. The church is located at 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042. Their website is www.saintpatricks.us Their YouTube Channel carries their services live as well as past weeks. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/StPatsEpiscopal>.