



# St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204 703 671-6834

## **As the United States of America marks the 250th Anniversary of Independence Day**

Almighty and gracious God, source of all freedom and giver of every good gift, we give you thanks for this nation, for the vision of liberty that gave it birth, for the generations who have labored, struggled, and sacrificed, and for the blessings of community, opportunity, and hope we have received.

Yet, O Lord, you are the God of truth, and you call us to walk in your light. Save us from comforting illusions and easy pride. Grant us the grace to see our history clearly, to rejoice in what is just and life-giving, and to repent of what has wounded your children and fallen short of your dream for humanity. Give us humility, we pray, humility to listen before we speak, to learn from those whose stories differ from our own, and to remember that all we have is entrusted to us by your mercy.

And grant us courage: courage to seek justice, even when it costs us, courage to stand for truth in the face of division, courage to love our neighbors, especially those with whom we disagree, and courage to work tirelessly for the common good. Shape us, O God, as a pilgrim people, whose first allegiance is to your Kingdom, that in all our civic life we may reflect your righteousness, your compassion, and your peace.

On this anniversary, renew in us a deep commitment not only to the freedoms we cherish, but to the responsibilities they require—that this nation may more fully become a place of liberty and justice for all. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*July 4 and the Church: Patriotism, Faith, and Public Life originally streamed June 30, 2026*

## **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 5, 2026, 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.*

### **The Holy Eucharist, *Enriching Our Worship I* & Leave-taking of the Reverend Deacon Mary E. Cushing**

#### **The Liturgy of the Word**

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

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.**

## The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

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

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

A Reading from the Book of Genesis. *24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67*

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of

Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 45: 11-18** Eructavit cor meum

"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
**forget your people and your father's house.**

The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
**he is your master; therefore do him honor.**

The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
**the rich among the people seek your favor."**

All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
**her gown is cloth-of-gold.**

In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
**after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.**

With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
**and enter into the palace of the king.**

"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
**you shall make them princes over all the earth.**

I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
**therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."**

## **The Epistle**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. *7:15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is

right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *16-19, 25-30*  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **Homily**

Archdeacon of the Diocese of Virginia

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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.**

### **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: Sean, Mark, Gayle, and Mark, 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 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*

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 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.**

## Litany of Leave-taking as the Reverend Deacon Mary E. Cushing concludes her Ministry

Mary, you have assisted us in worship and set God's Holy table for us.

**Go with our blessing.**

Mary, you have proclaimed to us the Good News of God's love and its power to transform our world.

**Go with our blessing.**

Mary, you have helped us look beyond ourselves, to go out in mission, and to welcome in the stranger.

**Go with our blessing.**

Mary, you have prayed with us, visited us, consoled us, and helped us to grieve our departed.

**Go with our blessing.**

Mary, you have brought Christ's presence to us and helped us deepen our relationship with God in prayer and spiritual growth.

**Go with our blessing.**

Mary, you have loved this congregation and invited them to love you. Because God's love always adds and multiplies, it is never divided nor taken away.

**We release you with our blessing, confident that you will hold your love for us in your heart, as we will hold our love for you in ours.**

The time has come to release your active role in the ministry of this congregation. Do you now surrender your tasks and ministry to others, trusting in God's provision for this congregation as you focus on discerning what is next for you?

Yes. Dear people of Saint John's, be the saints of God I know you to be. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Holy and gracious God, receive Mary more and more into your faithful service and continue to send us out in the spirit of truth to love and serve you as faithful witnesses. Even in our farewell, may we know what a good and right and joyful thing our life together is in you. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them, our lives to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **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 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. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**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.**

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:

**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 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**

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.

*Intinction and drinking from the common cup are both offered; the Bread and the Cup are distributed with these words*

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

### **Post-Communion 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.**

### **Dismissal**

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

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**415 South Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204 703 671-6834**

## **Announcements**

**Welcome:** We extend a warm welcome to all of our visitors and newcomers. All baptized Christians 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.

### ***Ministries Sign ups for July and August***

Because of vacations, travel, and other uncertainties in the summer months, rather than making ministry assignments for July and August, we are asking members of the congregation to sign up for Sunday ministry assignments for the summer. There are sign up sheets for these two months on the clipboard in the narthex. Please sign up to keep our summer services moving smoothly.

### ***Saint John's Little Free Food Pantry***

On behalf of our hungry neighbors, thank you to everyone who has been contributing. When donating in kind, please prioritize canned tuna or chicken, cereal and oatmeal, ready-to-eat meals, ready-to-eat soup, pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, shelf-stable milk, water, dry lentils, dry black beans, plain rice, peanut butter, and crackers (but no glass containers, please). Monetary contributions are also welcome and can be made with a check in the collection plate memo LFFP at Saint John's or via the link on Saint John's website.

### ***Pastoral Care***

For pastoral care, please call or text the Reverend Julie D. Bryant, *Rector*, [juliediane Bryant@gmail.com](mailto:juliediane Bryant@gmail.com), or 703-336-2255.

***Live-Stream Worship*** Zoom access link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZiN2ZVFswDNIkoZDUT09> and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. Password: 2020. Or, [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join) Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.