



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026, 9 :00 a.m.**

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. 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*

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65, 105:1-11, 45b Confitemini Domino

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

Hallelujah!

The Epistle

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. 8:36-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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. 13:1-9,18-23
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Mary Thorpe

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.**

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 pray:

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.

Serving Today

The Rev. Dr. Mary Thorpe, Celebrant
Lynn Robinson, Usher • Eileen Tallent, Altar Guild
Eileen Tallent, Reader • Lisa Pope, Prayers of the People
Barbara Olivere, Lay Eucharistic Minister
Patricia Broida, Teller • Faye Pritchard, Fellowship
Pete Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

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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.

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care through July 25, please contact the Very reverend Janettarose Greene, Dean of the Arlington Region. She can be reached through Saint Mary's, Arlington at (703) 527-6800 or via email at janettarose@stmarysarlington.org

Ministries Sign ups for July and August

Thanks to all who signed up to serve during these summer months. Your service is a wonderful part of our worship.

Saint John's Little Free Food Pantry

We thank our Glencarlyn neighbors Peter Reed and Paxton Baker for using their handyman skills to repair the door of the LFFP which was torn apart by strong wind several weeks ago.

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.

Live-Stream Worship Zoom access link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVFfSWdNlkoZDUT09> and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. Password: 2020.

Or, zoom.com/join Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.