



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

Sunday, August 16, 2026 -- The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 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.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Amen.

First Lesson

A Reading from the Book of Genesis. *45:1-15*

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,**

Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Epistle

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans. *11:1-2a, 29-32*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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. *15: 10-28*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler

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.

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Serving Today

The Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler, Celebrant
Bill Pritchard, Usher • Eileen Tallent, Altar Guild
Lynn Robinson, Reader • Patricia Broida, Prayers of the People
Patricia Broida, Lay Eucharistic Minister
Patricia Broida, Teller • Lynn Robinson, Fellowship
Pete Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

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Announcements

The last regularly scheduled Sunday Service will be August 30th

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 emergency pastoral care needs, please contact the Dean of the Arlington Region, the Very Rev'd Janet Rose Green, 703-527-6800 or at office@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

A new location of the LFFP is likely to be needed after St. John's ends regular Sunday services.

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.

Articles about St. John's – A short article prepared by St. John's is on our website and will be in the September Glencarlyn newsletter, the Village View. (stjohnsarlingtonva.org). Also a few articles on page 7 of summer issue of the Village View, including one by Brad White <https://glencarlyn.org/village-views/>

Live-Stream Worship Zoom access link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVF5SWdNlkoZDUT09>

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

Setting Down of Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church

Every Episcopal Church dates its beginning to Jesus Christ and the twelve apostles. The Episcopal Church belongs to a tradition that teaches that the faith is communicated "hand to hand," learned from one person to another. Similarly, churches do not just begin, but are birthed out of a long lineage, sometimes planted by a committee of the diocese, sometimes started as a mission of another local church.

Just as each church has a moment of beginning, so a church may also have a moment when the people of that church can no longer carry the ministry forward. When this happens, the church becomes inactive. However, the impact of the church is everlasting. The gifts of the church continue in the people who have been inspired to grow in their faith, in the memories of how the neighborhood has been nurtured by the church and its ministries, and in the items of the church that will be shared with other churches so that the ministry lives on. Stewardship of the real property is the responsibility of the Executive Board and the Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

The last regular Sunday service at St. John's will be Sunday, August 30. The final service to mark the closing of the church is currently being scheduled. You are most warmly welcome to both.

The Rev'd Shirley Smith Graham (she/her)
Canon for Congregational Vitality
The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

The description of the Setting Down of Ministry above, along with a summary of activities over the past 7 weeks related to this, were included in last week's printed and emailed bulletins.