



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The flowers on the altar are arranged by Caitrin Alexander and given to the glory of God.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

Together 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL (11am only) | *Children, preschool age through 3rd grade, are invited to follow the Child Crucifer to Children's Chapel during the Gloria. Please follow physical distancing and wear your mask!*

GLORIA | Jesu, Jesu, v. 3

Hymn 602

*These are the ones we should serve, Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 these are the ones we should love. show us how to serve
 All are neighbors to us and you. the neighbors we have from you.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 234

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON | Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

SECOND LESSON | James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever bring back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN | O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee (v. 1, 2)

Hymn 660

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN | O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee (v. 3, 4)

Hymn 660

THE SERMON

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway

A period of silence for reflection will follow.

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

Form IV, BCP p. 388

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love,
and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one
another and serve the common good.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of
others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one
another as he loves us.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and
bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant adds Concluding Collect

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.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.**

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWCOMER LITURGY & MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Those desiring to formally join St. John's Episcopal Church are invited to come forward.

Each person or family is introduced.

Priest Do you desire to serve Jesus Christ through the fellowship of St. John's Episcopal Church?

New Member(s) I do

Priest Will you support our life together by your presence, your prayers, your gifts, and your service?

New Member(s) I will with God's help.

Priest I present to you these persons, who are baptized members of the Body of Christ and who now desire to serve Jesus Christ in the company of our fellowship. Are we willing to change our life in community in such ways that these persons and the ministries they bring are received, supported, and celebrated?

All **We are willing and will do so with God's help.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC (8:45 a.m.) | It's Me, It's Me, It's Me O Lord

St. John's Worship Choir

*It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my stranger or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*Not my stranger or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.*

*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. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A; BCP p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 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

Hymn 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.

Hosanna in the highest.

(The people stand or kneel.)

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:

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.**

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

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant 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.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (8:45 Service Only)

Faithful God, **in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I be renewed to love and to serve; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BCP p. 365

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. To receive the bread, place one hand over the other with palms facing upward. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead, cross arms over chest. Please let Fr. Ripp or Rev. Lucy know if you would like to receive a gluten free wafer.

COMMUNION MUSIC | God of Wonders (Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong) 3118757

Ian Flores

Lord of all creation

So early in the morning

Lord of water, earth and sky

I will celebrate the light

The heavens are your Tabernacle

As I stumble in the darkness

Glory to the Lord on high

I will call your name by night

And God of wonders beyond our galaxy

Hallelujah! To the Lord of heaven and earth

You are holy, holy

Hallelujah! To the Lord of heaven and earth

The universe declares Your majesty

Hallelujah! To the Lord of heaven and earth

You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth

Lord of heaven and earth

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p. 365

Eternal God, **heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

(Ephesians 4:15-16)

Speak the truth and build one another up in love, that we may grow in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN | Where Cross The Crowded Ways of Life

Hymn 609

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



If you are a visitor or guest, we would love to connect with you! Please visit www.stjohnsnb.com/welcome to fill out a visitor card or email office@stjohnsnb.com and Fr. Ripp or Rev. Lucy will contact you.

Updated Procedures for Worship & Gathering

- Following current CDC guidance, all people, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, are required to wear a mask while indoors.

- If, for any reason, you are not fully vaccinated, you are expected to wear a mask and maintain 6-feet physical distancing. We trust that you will follow CDC recommendations and Diocesan guidelines to best honor yourself and your St. John's family, especially children under 12 and others who are unable to be vaccinated.

- You will not need to sign up to attend services and seats will not be assigned. People may sit wherever they choose, being mindful of those who prefer to or need to maintain physical distancing. As the church fills, overflow seating will be provided in the Parish Hall with the service streaming to a TV. Those worshipping in the Parish Hall are invited to walk over to the Sanctuary to receive Communion.

- Bibles and Prayer Books have been returned to the pews. You may use these if you prefer to follow along with the service in the Book of Common Prayer instead of the bulletin.

- While we explore sanitary ways to share Communion with bread and wine, Communion will continue to be served in one kind (bread only) and through the same station method we are using now.

- Church staff and lay leaders who facilitate or lead formation offerings or provide childcare for children under the age of 12 must continue to wear masks and maintain 6-feet physical distance, regardless of that individual's vaccination status.

- Clergy and Eucharistic Ministers are required to wear masks during the distribution of Communion, regardless of that individual's vaccination status.

Turn in your "Growing Together" Commitment Cards today! Bring your card forward to the altar after the Oblationers. We are still collecting your commitment of time and talent to God through St. John's. If you do not have a card to turn in, please ask the Ushers for one or email office@stjohnsnb.com for help using the online portal.

Names put forward by Nominating Committee for Vestry

St. John's will hold an election for three new Vestry members for 2022 as part of the Fall Parish Meeting on Sunday, October 17. The Nominating Committee has put forward three names: Carrie Martin, Renee Wendel, and Tom Nolan. Read their full bios at stjohnsnb.com/staff-and-vestry. Names of additional nominees may be submitted, with their permission, to Linda Lund, chair of the Nominating Committee at llundpc@earthlink.net. Nominees must be Confirmed in the Episcopal Church and members in good standing of St. John's.

Communion in both kinds, bread and wine, will be offered beginning October 3rd

Please sanitize your hands before approaching stations at the front, *especially if you intend to receive the wine by intinction*. We are offering the wine by intinction only at this time: after receiving the bread, step to the side to the minister with the chalice and dip your wafer in the wine, *avoiding touching the wine with your fingers*. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please know that our tradition teaches that Christ cannot be divided and all of the spiritual benefits of Communion are present in the bread alone.

Sunday School & Adult Christian Education on Sundays | Continues at 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School Pre School - 1st Graders meet in the Children's Gathering Space,
2nd - 5th Graders go straight to your classrooms.

Youth Sunday School with Hannah and Kyle will meet in the Youth Room

St. John's 101 with Father Ripp will meet in the Music/Multipurpose Room

Bible in 90 Days with Adrian & Jim will meet in the Parish Hall

Establishing Family Rhythms & Routines with Rev. Lucy will meet on Parish Hall Patio

Youth Outing: River Float and BBQ | Today at 4 p.m.!

Grab your tubes and swimsuits and join us as we float the Guadalupe! We will be meeting in the Rocking R parking lot (1405 Gruene Rd) at 4pm and floating down the river to the Ranch at the Guadalupe Apartments where we will meet for food games and fellowship. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome!

Healing Service | September 28 | 6:30 p.m.

Beginning in September, Communion will again be offered as part of this service. Additionally, our prayer list needs updating, so even if you have offered names in the past, we ask that you again email the names you wish to be added to the September list to Rob Soeldner at rmsoeldner@gmail.com. Only first names are used during the service and only with permission. This service is open to in-person attendance and will be live-streamed on YouTube.

Trunk or Treat | October 24 at 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with planning and execution this fun afternoon. A committee meeting is planned for Sunday, October 3rd, after the 11 o'clock service. Come join us as we get ready for an afternoon of tricks and treats! Questions? Contact cheryl@stjohnsnb.com

Blessing of the Animals | October 3 at 5 p.m. on the Parish Hall lawn

Join us on the Parish Hall lawn for a special blessing for your beloved pets. An offertory will be collected for a local animal shelter. Please bring your animals with proper restraints including leashes or crates.