



2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

# St. John's Episcopal Church

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 14, 2025

*The flowers are given by John Richard and Elizabeth Gentry in joyful thanksgiving for the 9th birthday of their son, Jack Gentry, and in loving remembrance of Helen Richter Hopson. The flowers are arranged by Sue Hardaway.*

### ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

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The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector  
The Rev. Matthew Bloss, Associate Priest  
Riva Heron, Seminarian  
Jenny Montgomery, Executive Assistant to the Rector  
Desiree Moultrie, Director of Finance and Operations  
Grace Symmons, Director of Communications  
Ben Sykora, AV Tech Lead

Valerie Thompson, Director of Music & Organist  
Kelly Jackson, Director of Family Ministry & Parish Life  
Marjorie Nolan, Director of Children's Ministry & Events  
Lauren Koops, Assistant Youth Minister  
Emily Lehmuth, Director of Nursery Care  
Art Gonzalez, Sexton

### WORSHIP MINISTERS

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|                   | 8:45 a.m.                              |
|-------------------|--|
| Acolytes          | Peter and Jane Jewell, Brandon Hartman |
| Altar Guild       | Kathy Simmons, Marjorie Nolan          |
| Greeters          | Glenn Ross                             |
| Lay Readers       | Jorge Palma, Valerie Briell            |
| Ushers            | Ann Amoroso, Cody Jackson              |
| Children's Chapel | Marjorie Nolan                         |

|  | 11 a.m.                              |
|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | Nate, Ethan, and Zeke Eckmann-Rivera |
|  | Ann Y. Holder, Larry Rivera          |
|  | Marjaana and Dave Cich               |
|  | David Simmons, Paul Anthony          |
|  | Peter and Liz Carlson                |
|  | Marjorie Nolan                       |

PRELUDE | I Love Thee, My Lord – Douglas E. Wagner  
Suite Brevis on *Beach Spring* (“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”) – David Lasky

OPENING HYMN | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Hymn 390

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 (Both services!)

*Children, preschool through 3rd grade, are invited to follow the Child Crucifer to Children’s Chapel during the Gloria.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God – William Matthias Hymn S 278

*\*Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982*

COLLECT BCP p. 225

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

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON | Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1-11 | *in unison* BCP p. 656

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *<br>in your great compassion blot out my offenses. | 4 Against you only have I sinned *<br>and done what is evil in your sight.       |
| 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *<br>and cleanse me from my sin.                                 | 5 And so you are justified when you speak *<br>and upright in your judgment.     |
| 3 For I know my transgressions, *<br>and my sin is ever before me.  | 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *<br>a sinner from my mother's womb. |

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

## SECOND LESSON | 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL HYMN | The King of Love My Shepherd Is (v 1-3)

Hymn 645

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

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

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The King of Love My Shepherd Is (v 4-6)

Hymn 645

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Matthew Bloss

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

Common Worship, #10

In peace, let us pray to Jesus our Lord, who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Saviour of the world,

be present in all places of suffering, violence and pain, and bring hope even in the darkest night. Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church,

empower by your Spirit all Christian people, especially David and Angela our bishops, Ripp and Matthew our priests, Riva our seminarian, and the work of your Church in every land. Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,

guide and enable all who lead and serve this community and those on whom we depend for our daily needs. Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great Physician,

stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Conqueror of death,

remember for good those whom we love but see no longer. Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

*Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.*

*The officiant will then read the collect after the prayers*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

*Celebrant* God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

*People* Most merciful God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 377

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Be Strong! – Trilby Jordan & Sandy Wilkinson *Children & Youth Choir*

*From wisdom of the Bible we know God loves us so,*

*We know that God is by our side wherever we may go.*

*But when we look around us at problems on parade,*

*Sometimes we need to hear and heed: "Be strong! Don't be afraid!"*

*Be strong (don't be afraid), be strong (don't be dismayed),*

*Our God has given this command:*

*Be strong (cast off all fear), be strong (God's help is near);*

*We are held in God's righteous hand.*

*Oh, John had courage and Bible reading men.*

*In days long past, with trumpet blast, he conquered Jericho.*

*God strengthened him with courage to see the challenge through.*

*Take up the song, "Be strong! Be strong!" There's so much we can do.*

DOXOLOGY | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *praise him above, ye heavenly host:*

Hymn 11 v 4

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*praise him, all creatures here below;*

*praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Common Worship, Order One, Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

*People* **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 thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.  
**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *singing*:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - David Hurd

Hymn S 124

*\*Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow-er and might,*

*Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hea-ven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. AMEN.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



*\*Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant . . . us peace.*

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC | The Gift of Love / Here I Am, Lord – arr. John Carter

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITOR(S)

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that [N. and] all those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*All* We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

Modified Blessing, Black Rock Prayer Book

Our world is too broken and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands, so that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet so that you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so full of Christ's love and grace, that it changes everything. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN | There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymn 470

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* Thanks be to God. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

POSTLUDE | "Trumpet Tune" from Suite Brevis on *Beach Spring* – David Lasky

Valerie Thompson, Organist

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Today's anthem follows the theme of this year's Heroes of the Bible Choir Camp.  
Children and Youth Choir is open to ALL in kindergarten through 8th grade - no Choir Camp needed!



**Please complete your Commitment Card in the Church Center app.** Use the QR code in today's bulletin or on posters around campus to open the link. In a spirit of generosity, consider choosing at least one ministry from each category.

**Fall Christian Education Classes begin TODAY at 10 a.m. - Sign up for the class you'll attend on Church Center!**

**The Nursery** is open to 0 - 4 year olds all morning for a fun and loving environment while parents attend classes and worship.

**Children's Sunday School** is for Pre-K - 5th Graders, providing a joyful, nurturing space to learn and experience God's love through music, stories, crafts, and more.

**Middle School Class** explores scripture through videos, games, and activities, discussing big questions chosen together.

**High School Class** dives into Sunday's readings, using maps and videos to explore scripture and ask meaningful questions.

**Parenting Perspectives** continues in the Conference Room. Parents can come together to share perspectives and offer guidance to create camaraderie and build connections!

**Welcome to the BCP / Newcomers' Class** will meet in the Music / Multipurpose Room. This class is an introduction to the Book of Common Prayer—the heart of Episcopal worship and prayer. Whether you're brand new or a lifelong Episcopalian, join Fr. Ripp to explore its history, structure, and how it shapes our faith and practice.

**Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life** will meet in the Parish Hall. How can we live meaningful lives in a world of challenges and conflict? Join us as we explore Richard Rohr's premise in *Falling Upward*, how the two halves of life show that the heartbreaks and disappointments of life's first half are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys the second half of life has in store for us. This class will be led by Carrye Franzel, Clark Hendley, and Jennifer Mitchell.

**Choir Rehearsals are back! Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Children & Youth Choir; 6:30 p.m. Worship Choir**

The Children & Youth Choir and Worship Choir are back to rehearsing on Wednesdays and the Handbell Choir begins TODAY at 12:30 p.m.! Email Valerie, Director of Music, at [valerie@stjohnsnb.com](mailto:valerie@stjohnsnb.com) for more information.

**Family Promise Week | September 14 - 21**

Unlike previous hosting weeks, guests will stay at a Family Promise residence and our church will provide evening meals and fellowship only. Sign up via the QR code. For details, email Lisa Wells at [wells2326@gmail.com](mailto:wells2326@gmail.com)

**Leaders Training for Children's Sunday School & Chapel | TODAY and October 5 | 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room**

Over lunch, we'll cover what to expect, how to prepare, and tips for leading a meaningful experience. If you plan to serve this year, please attend one of the scheduled sessions.

**Teen Girls' Second Sundays begin TODAY! 5 - 7 p.m. at the Francis Home**

Teen girls are invited to the Francis' home for a meal, a short lesson on Jesus' teachings, and open discussion. Second Sundays is a safe space to grow in faith—and yes, to yap, too. For the address, email [lauren@stjohnsnb.com](mailto:lauren@stjohnsnb.com).

**New Fellowship Group: Parents of Littles | Wednesday, September 17 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. in the Church Nursery**

If you are a parent who stays home, works from home, or has a flexible work schedule, please join us! Bring your favorite coffee while we attempt to chat and fellowship while the kids \*hopefully\* entertain themselves! More info in Church Center!

**Women of St. John's at Gruene Grove | Sunday, September 21 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

Inviting the women of St. John's to gather for live music, a cold drink, and fellowship. We will try to grab seats but please feel free to bring your own outdoor chair to ensure we can sit together.

**Men of St. John's at Faust Brewing Company (499 S Castell Ave, NBTX) | Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Join your fellow Men of St. John's as we kick off Oktoberfest at Faust Brewing Company. Whether you're most interested in the beverages, polka, or fellowship, we'd love to spend the evening with you. RSVP in the Church Center app.

**Newcomers' Dinner Sunday, September 28 from 4:30 - 7 p.m.**

Our Newcomers' Dinners are for anyone who is new (or feeling new!) to St. John's. Dinner is provided and the whole family is invited! September's dinner will be held at the home of Bill and Lynn Campaigne.

**Fall Parish Meeting | Sunday, October 12 at 10 a.m. | Parish Hall**

All are invited to attend to hear ministry updates, elect new Vestry members, and look forward to 2026 together.

Vestry nominees: Matt Eckmann, David Simmons, Amy Mark, Becky Huff.