



**Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM and 9:30 AM**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**First Sunday of Creation Season**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**September 1, 2024**

*Families with young children: A 'Pew Buddy' may offer your child a Children's Bulletin or other materials, or invite them to help with the service in some way that may be fun and meaningful for them. The more children are actively engaged, the more likely they are to genuinely experience God in worship and feel a part of the community.*

*Please refrain from applause during worship, but feel free to share your appreciation with our worship leaders after the service if you are so moved!*

**Prelude**

**Praise to the living God!**

Setting by Edmund Shay

*Please stand as able at the ringing of the bell.*

**Processional Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#372, The Hymnal 1982**

**Praise to the living God!**

Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy;  
tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926)  
Music: Leoni

1 Praise to the living God!  
All praised be his Name  
who was, and is, and is to be,  
for ay the same.  
The one eternal God  
ere aught that now appears:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought  
his timeless years!

2 Formless, all lovely forms  
declare his loveliness;  
holy, no holiness of earth  
can his express.  
Lo, he is Lord of all.  
Creation speaks his praise,  
and everywhere above, below,  
his will obeys.

3 His Spirit floweth free,  
high surging where it will:  
in prophet's word he spoke of old;  
he speaketh still.  
Established is his law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart,  
on sea, on land.

4 Eternal life hath he  
implanted in the soul;  
his love shall be our strength and stay  
while ages roll.  
Praise to the living God!  
All praised be his Name  
who was, and is, and is to be,  
for ay the same.

**Opening Acclamation**

p. 355 Book of Common Prayer

**Celebrant** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant

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.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**S-280, The Hymnal 1982** (spoken at 7:45 AM; sung at 9:30 AM)

Setting by Robert Powell

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.

## **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## **The First Lesson: A reading from the Song of Songs**

Song of Songs 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm appointed for the day: Psalm 45: 1-2, 7-10 (read in unison)**

p. 647, Book of Common Prayer

- 1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.**
- 2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you for ever.**
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.**
- 8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.**
- 10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

## **The Second Lesson: A reading from the Letter of James**

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as able for*

**The Sequence Hymn** (9:30 AM)  
#656, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1, 2 & 3

**Blest are the pure in heart** Words: Sts. 1 & 3, John Keble (1792-1866),  
alt.; sts. 2 and 4, William John Hall (1793-1861), alt.  
Music: Franconia

1 Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with us,  
our pattern and our King;

3 he to the lowly soul  
will still himself impart  
and for his dwelling and his throne  
will choose the pure in heart.

### **The Holy Gospel**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sequence Hymn continued*

4 Lord, we thy presence seek;  
may ours this blessing be;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple fit for thee.

*All are seated as invited by the preacher.*

### **The Sermon**

Farley Lord, Intern

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.

*All stand as able for*

### **The Nicene Creed**

p. 358, Book of Common Prayer

**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.**

***The People say responses in bold.***

*During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

Leader Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.  
**In the beginning, God was. Here and now, God is. In the future, God will be.**

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. *Silence*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Great Teacher, we pray for all students, teachers, and school personnel as they begin a new school year, that they would gather safely, treat one another respectfully, and take pleasure and pride in all their work. *Silence.*  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator of all that lives, we pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Clara Baker, Emily Davis, Nora Polizio, Mary Hamer, Carol McClain, Carmen Hopkinson, Robert Davis, Joanna Siaw, Helen Holt, Peter Dykeman, Rhett Dodd, and those we name to you now....  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help **Ken, Pat, Paul, Edna, Sheila, Ruth, Erin, Kristen, Jen, Peggy, Jeanne, Sheena, Ric, Maren, Jan, Steve, Robert, and Mary.** We pray for all those on our parish prayer list who live with chronic illnesses, and for all those we name to you now...  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died, especially those we name to you now...  
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

Gracious God, grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

p. 360, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

**ALL 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.**

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

*Please be seated*

### **Welcome & Parish Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory**

*If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at [www.stjohnswf.org/give](http://www.stjohnswf.org/give) OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

**The Altar Flowers are given today in memory of Elizabeth Cochran from St. John's Hiking Group.**

### **Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)**

#### **Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)**

Music/Lyrics by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston, and Salomon Lighthelm

Arranged by Dan Galbraith

Rebecca O'Donnell, vocal soloist

*You call me out upon the waters, The great unknown where feet may fail.  
And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep my faith will stand.*

*And I will call upon Your Name and keep my eyes above the waves when oceans rise.  
My soul will rest in Your embrace for I am Yours and You are mine.*

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sovereign hand will be my guide.  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me, You've never failed and You won't start now.*

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders. Let me walk upon the waters.  
Wherever You would call me, take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger, in the presence of my Savior.*

*Please stand as able*

**The Doxology**

*(7:45 am—spoken)*

**All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.**

*(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Adapted from the Season of Creation 2024, To Act and Hope with Creation*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

*(South Africa)*

**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, the God of all creation.

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

Celebrant You spoke the Word and all that is in heaven and on the earth, all things, came to be...

And so with the wonders of creation and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on earth we praise you now and for ever saying:

**Sanctus— Holy, holy, holy Lord** (7:45 AM spoken; 9:30 AM sung)  
**S-129, The Hymnal 1982**

Setting by Robert Powell

**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.**

Celebrant In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God...

....So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Therefore God, we who seek your reconciliation; we who need reconciliation one with another; we who hope for reconciliation with all creation, draw close to this mystery...

... By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of your Creative Spirit, with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe, we stand before you and worship you, God of all, in songs of everlasting praise.

**All Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. AMEN.**

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

**All 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.**

*All stand as able*

### **The Breaking of the Bread (Fraction Anthem)**

#### **At 7:45 AM, spoken**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover  
is sacrificed for us;

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

#### **At 9:30 AM, sung**

**S-154** (front of Hymnal 1982), **Christ our Passover**  
Setting by David Hurd

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **The Communion of the People** (*please sanitize your hands before coming forward*)

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher.

At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

#### **Communion Hymn** (9:30 AM) **#138, Lift Every Voice & Sing**

#### **Lord, I want to be a Christian**

Words: Traditional  
Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Edward C. Deas

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian  
**In my heart, In my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.  
In my heart, In my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.**

2 Lord, I want to be more loving . . .  
3 Lord, I want to be more holy . . .  
4 I don't want to be like Judas . . .  
5 Lord, I want to be like Jesus . . .

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion** (for those worshiping with us remotely at 9:30 AM)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

### **The Postcommunion Prayer** (for those who have shared in Communion in person)

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All 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 Celebrant blesses the People.*

**(9:30 AM) All children & youth here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the following hymn. The children will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.**

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**The Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

Setting by J. Bert Carlson

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