



Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM and 9:30 AM
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifth Sunday of Creation Season
St. John's Episcopal Church
September 29, 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 **God, who stretched the spangled heavens** Setting by David Cherwien

Please stand as able at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn (9:30 AM) **God, who stretched the spangled heavens** Words: Catherine Cameron
#580, The Hymnal 1982 Music: Holy Manna

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| <p>1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.</p> <p>2 Proudly rise our modern cities,
stately buildings, row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,
stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed
in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning,
scarcely caring where they go.</p> | <p>3 We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.</p> <p>4 As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun:
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.</p> |
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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

<p>Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.</p> <p>Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;</p>	<p>have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.</p> <p>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.</p>
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of Esther

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.

The Psalm appointed for the day: Psalm 124 (read in unison)

p. 781, Book of Common Prayer

- 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.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from the Letter of James

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 brings 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.**

All stand as able for

The Sequence Hymn (9:30 AM)
#609, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1-3

Where cross the crowded ways of life

Words: Frank Mason North
Music: Gardiner

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of thy tears.
- 3 The cup of water given for thee
still holds the freshness of thy grace;
yet long these multitudes to see
the true compassion of thy face.

The Holy Gospel

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

Mark 9:38-50

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn continued

- 4 O Master, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again;
- 5 till all the world shall learn thy love,
and follow where thy feet have trod;
till glorious from thy heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Rector

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.**

Prayers of the People

From *Season of Creation 2024:
A celebration guide for Episcopal Churches (Form 2)*

The People say responses in bold.

Leader Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

People 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator of all that lives, we pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Miles Crate, Kaitlyn Hamrick, Kate Walker, and Sandra Patterson.
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your healing presence: **Ken, Paul, Edna, Sheila, Ruth, Peggy, Jeanne, Sheena, Ric, Jan, Steve, Robert, Mary, Carol, Foster, Rex, Pat, and Rory.** 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 Veeda Johnson, Roxanne Johnson's sister, and all 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 OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

The Altar Flowers are given today by Bill and Ann Van Cleave in memory of their son Alex.

Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Text from Psalms 148 & 149/Setting by Sonja Poorman

CANTATE

Sing to the Lord a new song, and let His people rejoice.

Sing to the Lord a new song and lift your jubilant voice.

Praise His name with the harp. Let us praise His name with the dance.

Sing a song of praise unto the Lord.

Morning light, stars of night, ev'rything in heaven praise His name.

Shining seas, mountain breeze, exalt out God, always the same.

Kings of earth, men of worth, all the young and old of every land,

Maidens fair, everywhere, give thanks to Him the great I AM!

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) #178, Lift Every Voice and Sing

Sweet hour of prayer

Words: William Walford
Music: William B. Bradbury

- 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief.
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.
- 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace.
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

- 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
May I thy consolation share,
Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize.
And shout, while passing through the air,
"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

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. Our youth will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.

**The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)
#409, The Hymnal 1982**

The spacious firmament on high

Words: Joseph Addison
Music: Creation

1 The spacious firmament on high,
with all the blue eternal sky,
and spangled heavens, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day
does his Creator's power display;
and publishes to every land
the work of an almighty hand.

3 What though in solemn silence all
move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound
amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
and utter forth a glorious voice;
for ever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

2 Soon as the evening shades prevail,
the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the listening earth
repeats the story of her birth:
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings, as they roll
and spread the truth from pole to pole.

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Tocatta in G Major, P. 440

Music by Johann Pachelbel

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