

While we sing and hear music composed and arranged by women throughout the year, we have made a special effort to select the music of female composers during Women's History Month.

9:25 AM — At the ringing of the bell, please prepare for worship in silence.
9:30 AM — All stand as able at the ringing of the bell to begin worship.

Ministers enter in silence.

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

p. 351 Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good News. (Mark 1:15)

All kneel in body or spirit.

The Decalogue (The Ten Commandments)

Hear God's commandments to God's people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord
your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs
to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9)

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.

The Celebrant alone stands and says

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.**

All stand in body or spirit.

**Kyrie: Lord Have Mercy
#235, Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Setting by Lena McLin

LENA MCLIN (1928-2023) wrote this "Kyrie" as part of a larger composition, *The Mass of St. Augustine*. Raised by her uncle, Thomas A. Dorsey, the "Father of Gospel Music," McLin was inspired to follow careers including teaching High School Music, serving as a Pastor, and composing over 400 works. She founded the McLin Ensemble and the McLin Opera Company: both organizations creating performance opportunities for African American musicians.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the First Book of Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm Appointed: 23 (read in unison)

p. 612, Book of Common Prayer

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for
his Name's sake.**

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You spread a table before me in the presence
of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for
ever.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Marty Haugen

All stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation,

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

vss. 1—3

1. Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your death we are re -
2. We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, lovepassed on through act and
3. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum-bling though our steps may

4
born; though you die in all of his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry
word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and bro - ken wears the bod - y of our
be; one with you in joy and sor - row, we the riv - er, you the

8
morn, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.
Lord, wears the bod - y of our Lord,
sea, we the riv - er, you the sea.

The Holy Gospel

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

John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he

said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation continued.

Vs. 4 Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.
As your gospel shining bright.

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Sermon

Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

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

All stand in body or spirit.

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

Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

Leader: Be present, O merciful God, as we offer our prayers to you, knowing that you are always doing more for us than we can desire or ask.

Silence.

God of Mercy and Forgiveness, you know us better than we know ourselves. Awaken our hearts and souls to know where we fall short of being who you have created us to be. Help us to turn to you for forgiveness. Guide us to forsake all that tempts us away from you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Mother Hen, gather your Church throughout the world under the wings of your care. Banish fear and empower your gospel to be proclaimed. Bless all your people to be like Abram and trust in you. We especially pray for St. John's in this time of transition. Fill our leadership, staff, vestry, and search committee with the grace of your love and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Repentance and Truth, we pray for our nation and all in authority, especially for our President, Congress, Judiciary, and all local officials. May your truth and wisdom guide their decisions, that we may turn away from divisiveness, self-centered blindness, and systemic injustice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love and Courage, just as your Son did not turn away from the pain and suffering that lay before him, may we not turn away from the suffering and needs of our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable, hungry, homeless, despised or marginalized in any way. May you lead us to action on their behalf. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace and Healing, draw us ever closer to you, that we may entrust into your care all that ails and distresses us in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for **Carol, Tammy, Jim, Cindy, Elizabeth, Caroline, Louis, Marita,** and all those on our chronic prayer list, and those we name to you now (*name those in need, either silently or aloud*). May your love and tenderness particularly enfold all who suffer from chronic conditions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Gladness and Delight, we ask your blessing on those who are joyous today, and especially on all those celebrating Birthdays this week; Dominick Walker, Justin Kwiatek, and Christy Baker. Lord of all blessings, **hear our prayer.**

God of Welcome and Hope, as our bodies eventually return to the dust, we place our sure and certain hope in the Resurrection of your Son. Welcome into your Eternal Life and Peace, we pray, all who have died (*and those we name to you now, either silently or aloud*). Let light perpetual shine upon them forever. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Let us say together the Prayer for Transition (*Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher*)

People **Ever-present and Holy God, as you continue to invite new people into St. John's, we ask your ongoing guidance and blessing upon us, that we may always become more fully the people and congregation you would have us to be. Keep our hearts deeply grounded in your divine love, that we may grow in steadfast love and gentleness for one another. Inspire our leadership with wisdom and creativity to navigate the ongoing changes that lay before us. In this season of transition, we particularly pray for our Sr. Warden Camille, vestry, staff, search committee, our Assoc. Rector, Fr. Mawethu, our Interim Rector, Rev. Stephanie, and our eventual new rector. Fill all of us with courage, kindness, and patience as we walk the Way of Love with one another and with the broader diverse community around us. All this we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns in each of us every day. Amen.**

Celebrant: Merciful God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love that we may be strengthened to do your will in all that we say, think, and do, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated for

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.

Offertory Anthem

Residing in Shepherdstown, WV, arranger GEORGIANN H. TOOLE (b. 1958), is a vocalist, educator, conductor and composer. Toole holds music degrees from Shenandoah University and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and most recently, has premiered works featuring the recording of music from the Shenandoah Valley settlers.

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Text by Synesius of Cyrene/Translated by A. W. Chatfield.
Music from Daman's Psalms (1579)/Arrangement by Georgiann H. Toole

CANTATE

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery be Thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go stray,
Through darkness and perplexity point Thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, that when this life is past,
I may eternal brightness see and share Thy joy at last.

All stand in body or spirit for

The Doxology

(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

p 361 Book of Common Prayer Eucharistic Prayer A

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...who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus— Holy, holy, holy #858, Wonder, Love, and Praise

Setting by Annabel M. Buchanan

The harmonization of this American folk melody was created by ANNABEL MORRIS BUCHANAN (1889-1983). Known as both composer and folklorist, Buchanan collected traditional songs from southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, totaling over 800. She also founded the White Top Folk Festival, promoting the music of the Appalachian Mountains.

**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 in body or spirit. The Celebrant continues.

Celebrant Holy and gracious father: In your infinite love...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption....

...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.**

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 in body or spirit for

**The Fraction Anthem
#270, Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Lamb of God

Setting by Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

Holding the distinction of being the first African American graduate at Julliard (1948), MARJORIE LANDSMARK-DELEWIS (1920-2017) was born in Harlem and received her early musical training from her Classically trained pianist uncle. Throughout her life, Landsmark-DeLewis collaborated with the American Ballet Theatre and infamous choreographer Agnes de Mille, and served on the keyboard faculty of Sarah Lawrence College.

**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.**

The Communion of the People

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
#29, Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Near the Cross

Words: Fanny J. Crosby
Music: William H. Doane

Losing her vision just six weeks following her birth, FRANCES "FANNY" JANE CROSBY (1820-1915) developed skills to memorize (in entirety) the first four books of the Bible in addition to all four Gospels prior to age 10. With an education from the New York Institute for the Blind, Crosby worked as a teacher of English grammar, rhetoric, and American history. Publishing numerous books of poetry, her sacred verses have been set to music by many nineteenth-century hymn composers.

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There's a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows o'er me. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain: In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.**

4 Near the cross, I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river. **[Refrain]**

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me. **[Refrain]**

All stand in body or spirit for

The Postcommunion Prayer

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 prays a Solemn Prayer over the People.

Keep this your household, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All children and 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 #690, The Hymnal 1982

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Words: William Williams (1717-1791);
tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.
Music: Cwm Rhondda

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Gigue

Composed by Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre

Recognized as one of the few female composers of her time, ELISABETH JACQUET DE LA GUERRE (1665-1729) was the daughter of a family of musicians and master instrument makers. At age 5, de la Guerre performed for King Louis XIV at Versailles, eventually securing an appointment as a court musician. She also holds the distinction as the first female in France to compose an opera.