



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 19

September 13, 2026, 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew or in the bulletin. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

The Word of God

Prelude

Please take your seat as the music begins and prepare yourself quietly for worship.

Processional Hymn: H 1, "Father, we praise thee, now the night is over"

Christe sanctorum

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

Gloria: S 280, "Glory to God"

Gloria in excelsis

Collect of the Day

Proper 19, BCP, p. 233

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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: Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Response: Psalm 103:8-13, *Benedic, anima mea*

BCP, p. 733

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, * **slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He will not always accuse us, * **nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * **nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, * **so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west, * **so far has he removed our sins from us.**

As a father cares for his children, * **so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 411, "O bless the Lord, my soul"

St. Thomas (Williams)

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People

Prayers are adapted from Gail Ramshaw, ed., Intercessions for the Christian People (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990). If you'd like to add a loved one to the parish prayer list, please contact clergy or the parish office.

Let us pray to the Lord. **We beseech you, O Lord.**

Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 360

Absolution

BCP, p. 360

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.

As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check or use the QR code at right to donate online. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.



The Presentation of Alms & Oblations: H 380, vs. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

Sanctus: S 129, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"

Prayer B (cont.)

BCP, p. 368

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP, p. 364

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

Fraction Anthem: S 161, "Lamb of God"

Agnus Dei

Communion

BCP, p. 365

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. The ushers will invite you forward to receive the blessings that come from God's altar. To receive the wafer, extend one hand over the other. If you wish to receive the wine, take a sip by guiding the offered chalice to your lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine yourself is not permitted. The bishop's customary requires the minister to do it for you. If you wish the minister to intinct, make a dipping motion or point to the minister when you approach. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than Communion, please cross your arms over your chest as you approach.

The table belongs to the Lord and the invitation comes from God. There are many kinds of blessing that come from it. Please come forward to receive them.

Communion Hymn: H 516, "Come down, O Love divine"

Down Ampney

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 674, "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

Detroit

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Staresinich, by Craig Staresinich and Nita Amar.

Celebration of New Ministry, September 20, 5:00 PM. St. John's is celebrating! The formal installation of a new rector is an important milestone in the history of any church, the celebration of a new chapter in our ministry together. On Sunday, September 20, we will welcome many special guests, local clergy and parishes, and many family and friends of Fr. Kevin. Following a worship service in our Lower Level Parish Hall (yes!), we will share an informal supper and continue the celebration. In the tradition of St John's hospitality, please sign up to help and bring what you can. We will need lots of helpers to welcome our many guests on the 20th.

Centreville Day, October 17, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. This annual community celebration in the historic district features food trucks, local vendors, history, entertainment, and, of course, St. John's! The stage is in our parking lot, and we need you to make the day everything it can be. Look for the many ways you can participate before, during, and after this important event on our website. Sign up today!

Bible Study Returns! Our Bible study returns this week to jump in at the deep end of the prophetic canon: Ezekiel! Ezekiel is a challenging text, home to some of the Bible's worst passages and to some of its most inspiring, powerful, and enduring. It's a roller coaster. Join us for the ride Wednesdays at 11:00 AM or Thursdays at 7:00 PM. For more information, see our website or contact Lisa Heller or Fr. Kevin.

Coffee Hour. Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Adult Lectionary Forum. The forum is back from summer break. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

Visit Us! For more information, visit stjohnscentreville.org and subscribe to our E-notes.

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TODAY'S MINISTERS

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|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Celebrant: | The Rev. Kevin Laskowski | Usher: | Nancy Scott |
| Music Director: | Mandy Hull | Lector: | Jerry Pankey |
| Vestry Member: | George Dewey | Alms Counters: | Larry Pike, Marie McDermott |
| Acolyte: | Monti Zimmerman | Altar Guild: | Meg Crossett |

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com
 Lisa Heller, Senior Warden, SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com
 Lee Griffith, Junior Warden, JuniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com
 Mandy Hull, Music Director, amandahull101@gmail.com
 Terri Katon, Parish Administrator, ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com
 Jeanette Nord, Ministry Partner Liaison, mpl@StJohnsCentreville.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
 5649 Mount Gilead Road, Centreville, VA 20120 – 703-803-7500