



A Worshipping Community serving as a beacon of God's love by exemplifying the two great commandments; love God with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rite II, Prayer A

St. John's Episcopal Church

3480 E. Main Street

College Park, Georgia 30337

priest@stjohnscollegepark.com + info@stjohnscollegepark.org+stjohnscollegepark.org

Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!

Prelude: Prelude: Lead, Kindly Light

by J. Dykes

Opening Hymn: *Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah* **Hymnal 690**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, AMEN.

COLLECT FOR PURITY- *Celebrant and People*

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.*

HYMN OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,
Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING:

Jessica Walters

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm- Psalm 145:1-8

Prayed responsively by whole verse, beginning with the Celebrant.

1. I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your Name for ever and ever.
2. Every day will I bless you and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3. Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.
4. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.
5. I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.
6. They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.
7. They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
8. The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

SECOND READING:

Hope King

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN- *Here Am I, Send Me* - LEVAS 126 (Red and Black Hymnal)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

All stand.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY –The Rev. Tim Black

THE CREED

All stand.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mike Spring

All remain standing.

Prayers of the People

Sisters and brothers, turn for help to the Lord your strength and constantly seek God's presence. Let us pray to our generous God, saying, "Lead us with gladness, O God; cover us with shouts of joy!" Generous God, you have chosen us to do the work of your kingdom; you have called us to labor in your vineyard. With grateful hearts, we offer to you the best of what we have. We are grateful for the presence and work of Dr. Toku Kawata and his time with us here at St. John's. We are grateful for our school partner, Liberation Academy, and for their students, parents and staff.

The Congregation is invited to add their thanksgivings, out loud or silently.

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Generous God, you hear the cry of the hungry. Give bread to all those who face starvation. Use us, as you will, to relieve suffering in our world.

Silence

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Generous God, you make rivers run in dry places. You have blessed this earth with bountiful resources. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Silence

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Generous God, there is enough kingdom work for everyone. Give us eyes to see the opportunities in our own neighborhood. Guide us that we may live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Silence

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Generous God, you hear the cries of the desperate. Marvelous are your works, O God. May the sick and suffering rejoice in you. May the sorrowful call upon your name. We pray today for: Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Fernanda Contreras, Coleman Parks, Brian Burnette, Kevin Hudson, Mia Parnal, Sonya Thiessen and Carol Nabeel.

The congregation is invited to add your petitions, out loud or silently.

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Generous God, living is Christ and dying is gain. May those who now rest from their labors find their comfort in you. Let light perpetual shine upon them. We pray today for Priscilla Shows.

Silence

Lead us with gladness, O God;

Cover us with shouts of joy!

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Celebrant and People: 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 us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

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

People: And also with you.

Then the Minister and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:

There's a sweet sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.
And for these blessings, we lift our hearts with praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

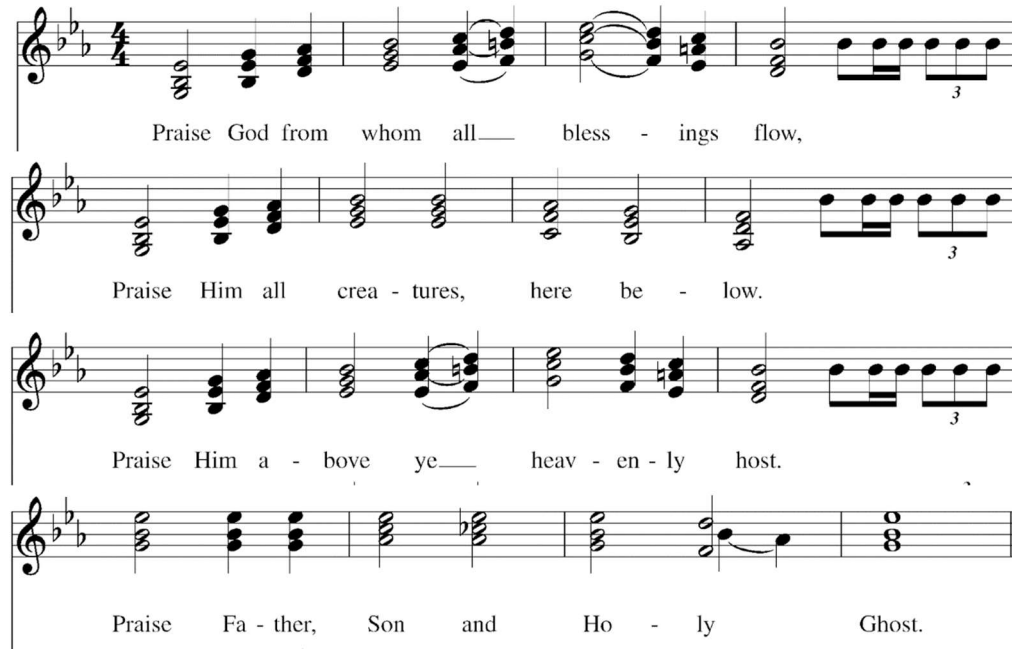
The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN-- *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*- H 644 (Blue Hymnal)

The congregation stands as the offerings are presented during the singing of the Doxology.

THE DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all— bless - ings flow,

Praise Him all crea - tures, here be - low.

Praise Him a - bove ye— heav - en - ly host.

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you
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 offer thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People



Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

Christ stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night Christ was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Christ took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S 119 The Lord's Prayer (Traditional) (Plainsong/Douglas)

People and Celebrant



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

DISTRIBUTION

We will be sharing communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or common cup. If you desire the common cup, you can communicate this by holding out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine. If you prefer intinction, you can communicate your preference by holding your hands in a prayer position or simply by telling the Eucharistic minister.

COMMUNION HYMN- *Strength for Service, Lord, the Hands*- H 312 (Blue Hymnal)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, 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.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people:

Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who made us, who loves us, who travels with us, be with you, now and forever. AMEN.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN- *Rise up Ye Saints of God* -H 551 (Blue hymnal)

Priest: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People : Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE – To Wild Rose

by E. MacDowell

PARISH NOTES

Today is Toku's Last Sunday with Us so please come and join us at a reception in his honor in the hospitality suite during coffee hour. We are so grateful for his beautiful music and the many ways in which he has blessed us with his kind, gentle presence this past year. He is going to be focusing on his piano teaching studio as well as performance. Come and wish him well after church.

Wednesday Night Supper September 27 from 5:30-7:00. Join your parish family for dinner at 6. Please email info@stjohnscollegepark.org to let us know if you are planning to join us.

Bible study will be in person and on zoom 7-8:00 this week. Use the same zoom as Sunday morning worship. We are continuing our walk through Acts. We will be reading Acts through August and will be beginning a study of Genesis through November.

Make Prayer Requests Online: <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukhfurgD8>

Subscribe to Eagle Notes: To sign up, please email us at info@stjohnscollegepark.org or go to our website homepage, scroll to the bottom of the page and hit the "sign up for our newsletter" link.

Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM- One of the vastly underutilized gifts of the Episcopal Church is morning prayer. Start your day off with prayer with our online community each week on Tuesday and Thursday. Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305

Compline Night Prayer Thursday - 7:00 pm Join us on zoom. Meeting ID: 843 7684 4017 Password: 848486

Give by Texting- You can use your phone's text messaging capabilities to give to St. Johns. **Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480 as the message.** You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections. You can also set up online giving through a link in our weekly email. To subscribe to the weekly email, please contact our administrator at info@stjohnscollegepark.org

Sunday September 24, 2023

Readers: Jessica Walters and Hope King
Prayers of the People: Mike Spring
Vergers: Michael Proscia
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black
Organist: Toku Kawata
Church Administrator: Terry Glover

Vestry

Daniel Hudson, Hospitality
Archie Polk, Evangelism
Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden
Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden
Val Valverde, Worship & Music
Sherran Davis, Clerk

Blessing of our Animal
Companions Service
4:00 PM October 1, 2023

St John's Episcopal Church
3480 E Main Street, College Park



Bring your (leashed or caged) dog, cats,
gerbils, hamsters, snakes, & selves
for a special blessing service. *Rain or Shine!*
for more information email info@stjohnscollegepark.org