



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.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 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!

Opening Hymn : Rejoice ye Pure in Heart- Hymnal 556

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.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Michael Proscia

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from

their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

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.

SECOND READING:

Carol Nabeel

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN- *You have Grounded my Soul*
All stand.

You have ground-ed my soul deep-ly in you, O God; —
Drone
 Om —
 — and I am end-less-ly trea-sured.

Words: Julian of Norwich (ca. 1342-1413)
 Music: William Bradley Roberts, © 1995 William Bradley Roberts. Used by permission.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let us humbly approach our God, saying, "Remember us with favor, O Lord; *visit us with your saving help.*"

For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

You are invited to add your thanksgivings and blessings, out loud or silently.

God our Savior, strengthen your Church to stand firm in your love. May we struggle not *with* one another, but instead struggle *beside* one another in the work of the gospel.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you make happy those who act with justice. May the leaders and people of the nations dedicate themselves to pure and honorable dealings. Let your justice reign on this earth.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you are good to us. You have blessed us with a rich creation and a beautiful planet for our home. May we cherish the gifts you have given us.

Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, deliver our community from worry. Make us a people of prayer, a congregation who intercedes for our neighbors.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you are always near. Assure the lonely; heal the sick; do mighty acts in the lives of the downcast. With thankful hearts, trusting in your mercy, we make our requests known to you. We pray today for: NAMES

You are invited to add your thanksgivings and blessings, out loud or silently.

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, your mercy endures forever. May those who have died glory in your inheritance and feast at your heavenly banquet for all eternity. We pray today for: NAMES

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

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 SONG- TBA

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:

The celebrant will sing the starting pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing, a cappella.

Celebrant and People:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

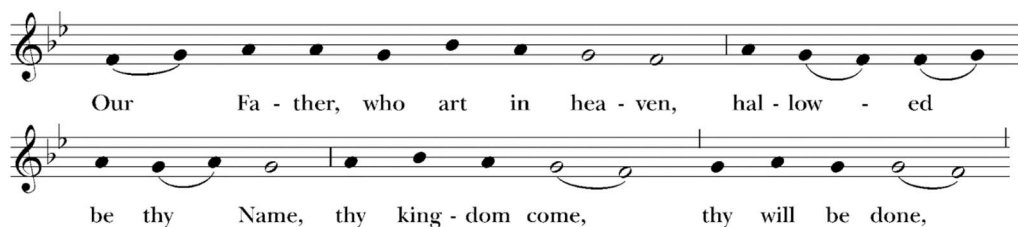
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The celebrant will sing the starting pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing, a cappella.

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-- *Seek Ye First* – H 711 (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.

POST COMMUNION HYMN- Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies -H 6 (Blue hymnal)

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

People : Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

PARISH NOTES

Wednesday Night Supper October 18 from 5:30-7:00. Join your parish family and others for dinner starting at 5:30. 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 7-800 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

"Second Cup" -an online hangout space for St. John's parishioners
Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305

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 October 15, 2023

Readers: Michael Proscia & Carol Nabeel

Prayers of the People: Andrew Hales

Verger: Michael Proscia

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black

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