



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.

The Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rite II

St. John's Episcopal Church

3480 E. Main Street

College Park, Georgia 30337

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*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!*

# The Word of God

**OPENING HYMN-** *O Christ the Word Incarnate* **Blue Hymnal 632**

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 you 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.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* *And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant:* Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The congregation is seated.*

## The Lessons

### **FIRST READING: Judges 4:1-7**

Val Valverde

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I give him into your hand.'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 123- Read in unison.**

1 To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he shows us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, \*

for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Susan Schubert

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we

belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*Reader* : The Word of the Lord.

*People*: Thanks be to God.

All stand for the singing of the hymn and reading of the Gospel.

**Gospel Hymn- Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom Voices Found 96**

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis - dom, she who  
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis - dom, cry - ing  
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture

danced when earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she  
 in the mark - et - place. Hear the Word made flesh a -  
 all who seek re - birth. Spi - rit - guide and close com -

teach - es, for her words are right and true. Wis - dom  
 mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the  
 pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us

clears the path of jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.  
 word takes root and rip - ens, peace and right - eous - ness em - brace.  
 to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Words: Ruth C. Duck, from *Circles of Care: Hymns and Song* © 1996 The Pilgrim Press.

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*Priest*: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People*: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;

enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

**HOMILY** – *The Rev. Tim Black*

**The Nicene Creed**    *-The congregation stands, as able.*

*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**

Archie Polk

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; We pray today for Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Daniel Hudson, Anthony Halston, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We pray today for Pastor Richard Halenza, Richard Pflieger, Mike Spring and Newell Anderson.

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

*Celebrant:* We give you thanks today for all teachers and educators and especially today for all retired educators. We thank you for their service to our communities and for all humanity through the gifts of knowledge and wisdom that they have shared with their students. Bless them as they seek new ways to serve and teach. Guide them through this next part of their lives and vocations. May they know how we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they have shared with us and with our children. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness has impacted generations to come. Amen.

*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.  
*The congregation kneels or stands, as able.*

*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.*

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

*People: And also with you.*

***We conclude 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**

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

**OFFERTORY HYMN-All Praise To Thee O King Divine- Blue Hymnal 477**

*The congregation stands as their offerings are brought forward.*

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 Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

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, 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:

*Celebrant:*

Celebrant and People- *The celebrant will sing the starting pitch, accompanied by the shruti box.*

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.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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 maker 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 he 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 Christ 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 many 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 priest continues:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty 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 forever. *AMEN.* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The Celebrant will sing the opening pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing The Lord's Prayer accompanied by the shruti box.*

*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 share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. For common cup, hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing. If you desire healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving communion and the priest or a healing minister will pray with you.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN- *The King of Love my Shepherd* is **Blue Hymnal 646****

*The people stand, as able:*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:* 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 Priest blesses the people:*

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the way of those who travel this journey with us. So, be swift to love, and slow to anger. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all, now and forevermore, Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION HYMN : *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light-* **Blue Hymnal 490****

*Priest:* Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia

*People:* Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

**Join with us today as we give thanks for our retired educators as we observe Retired Educator Sunday today.** We are so glad to be able to observe the day today and to thank God for their service for our communities and children. (Thanks to our own Anne Alston for getting these proclamations passed!) Please take a look on the next page at the two proclamations our own Anne Alston was instrumental in getting passed.



City of College Park  
Proclamation  
Retired Educators Day

**WHEREAS:** The Governor of the State of Georgia has proclaimed the day of Sunday, November 5, 2023, as Retired Educators Day in Georgia; and  
**WHEREAS:** There are more than 142,000 retired educators in Georgia, 32,000 plus of whom are members of the Georgia Retired Educators Association; and  
**WHEREAS:** The retired educators of Georgia donate thousands of hours of volunteer service and make invaluable contributions to the welfare of their respective communities across the state; and  
**WHEREAS:** It is appropriate that a day be designated for citizens to express their appreciation for the contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make for the betterment of human lives and for society; and  
**WHEREAS:** Local churches will recognize those lasting contributions made by retired educators in this community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** I, Mayor of City of College Park, Georgia, do hereby proclaim the day of November 5, 2023, as "RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY" and I call upon the citizens of the City of College Park, Georgia to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring retired educators.

Given unto my hand and seal at the City of College Park, Georgia, on this 3rd day of October, in the year of our Lord, 2023.

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK  
  
Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Shavalia Ames, City Clerk



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**

**RETIRED EDUCATORS' DAY**

**WHEREAS:** More than 142,000 retired educators have devoted their time and talents to public education in our state, fostering the academic development of millions of citizens in the State of Georgia; and  
**WHEREAS:** Retired educators touched and influenced the lives of generations of young people, motivating and inspiring their students to use their innate talents and abilities to the fullest, prompting them to become responsible, contributing citizens; and  
**WHEREAS:** Retired educators possess valuable knowledge and are able to use their vast experience and skill to enrich the education process in varied settings, often continuing to be a major source of insight and direction in education for our state and nation; and  
**WHEREAS:** For sixty-five years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of retired educators, and it has provided opportunities for them to become involved in community activities; and  
**WHEREAS:** On Retired Educators Day, the State of Georgia recognizes these individuals for their time and commitment to bettering our country, and encourages Georgians to express their gratitude for the work done by retired educators; now  
**THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 5, 2023, as RETIRED EDUCATORS' DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have heretofore set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST  
  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**Parish Notes**

**THE GIFTS OF THE SAINTS**

My Yearly pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I pledged online \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid: Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge online by scanning the QR code with your phone. If you do pledge online, please turn in a pledge card as well for our records..



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send in your financial pledges for 2024. See the card above to pledge now!**



**We will be collecting gifts for Emmaus House Through December 17.** We are focusing our efforts on gifts for teens. To take part, scan the QR code and fill out the form indicating which gift(s) you will bring in OR get an ornament from the tree and turn in during offertory. Bring your gifts to the church office Tues-Thurs. 10-2 or Sunday Morning. To join in this wonderful ministry, contact Hope King at [booksandbatty@gmail.com](mailto:booksandbatty@gmail.com)



**Wednesday Night Supper** takes a break this week and returns at 530 on 11/29

**Bible Study is Off This Week for Thanksgiving** and then we will have one more week with Genesis. December 6 and 13 we will be doing a comparative study of the two birth accounts found in Matthew and Luke.

**Winter Holiday Concert for College Park Kids' Choir December 3 at 4:00 PM at St. John's-** Come support the children's choir we helped start here at St. John's. You are guaranteed to get into the Christmas Spirit by coming!

**Subscribe to Eagle Notes:** To sign up, please email us at [info@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto: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.

**Online Prayer and Fellowship Groups: "Second Cup"** – fellowship time- Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Compline Night Prayer Thursday – 7:00 pm 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](mailto:info@stjohnscollegepark.org)

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

<p><b>Sunday November 19, 2023</b>          Readers: Val Valverde &amp; Susan Schubert          Prayers of the People: Archie Polk          Verger: Lisa Norton-Rotella          Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black          Church Administrator: Terry Glover</p>	<p><b>Vestry</b>          Daniel Hudson, Hospitality          Archie Polk, Evangelism          Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden          Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden          Val Valverde, Worship &amp; Music          Sherran Davis, Clerk          Richard Pflieger, Treasurer</p>
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