

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost:

*October 31, 2021
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. Remember that many in our communities are not vaccinated; like most of those under 17 years old, those who are immuno-compromised, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated for other reasons. While many are now vaccinated, remember that even a small percentage of those vaccinated can contract the corona virus, and while their symptoms may be milder, they can also spread the virus to loved ones and friends back home. We have not yet reached herd immunity as a nation. So please remain vigilant in safety protocols, mindful of the risk in our community, masked indoors, social distancing and getting vaccinated if possible. And be assured that we will continue to 'live stream' our worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page and our St. John's Facebook page.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

St. John's asks everyone to wear masks inside the church, whether vaccinated or not.

Organ Prelude

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Processional Hymn # 495 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!*

- 1 Hail, thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior,
bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor:
life is given through thy Name*
- 2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on thee were laid:
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven,
reconciled are we with God.*
- 3 Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading:
there thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding,
till in glory we appear.*
- 4 Worship, honor, power, and blessing
thou art worthy to receive;
highest praises, without ceasing,*

*right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
all your noblest anthems raise;
help to sing our Savior's merits,
help to chant Emmanuel's praise!*

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

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

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

The Celebrant says

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.***

The Gloria S # 280 *Gloria in Excelsis*

- 1*** *Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*
- 2*** *Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*
- 3*** *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,*
- 4*** *you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;*
- 5*** *you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.*
- 6*** *For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,*
- 7*** *you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: This story reflects the social customs of a patriarchal society, where widows are powerless and destitute, without husbands or sons to provide for them.

A Reading from the Book of Ruth (1:1-18)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung

to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 146 *the choir will sing the Psalm in Anglican chant by Edward Bairstow*

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

INTRODUCTION: The author here teaches that Jesus, our Great High Priest, has fulfilled and surpassed the sacrifices of the earthly temple made with human hands that served only as an archetype of the heavenly reality.

A Reading from the Letter of Hebrews (9:11-14)

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this

creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 581 *Where Charity And Love Prevail*

- 1 Where charity and love prevail
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love
by love are we thus bound.*
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.*
- 3 Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.*
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.*
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his Body joined
we are in him made one.*
- 6 Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's Name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.*

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

INTRODUCTION: In the gospel, Jesus answers a question concerning the chief command of the law by reciting the double commandment to love God and one's neighbor.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St. Mark (12:28-34-52)**

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

The Nicene Creed

*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

Loving the Lord with all our heart, and with all our soul, and mind, and strength, we offer to God our prayers and petitions, as we respond, “Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.”

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the Prayers and Confession

+ That our congregations may be centers of prayer and learning, that we may bequeath to our children and grandchildren the beauty of the Lord, and those rich traditions left to us by our ancestors in the faith, remembering especially Hosam, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Ian and Laura, our Bishops, Fr. Geoff, our priest, and for all the members of this congregation and the members of the Bishop’s Transition Committee; let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

+ That we may give sacrificially to the ministry of the Church in its response to the poor and marginalized in our communities, its daily maintenance and care, its commitment to reveal the hope of the kingdom that is coming to life in our time,

remembering especially the work of the Washington Council of Congregations and the Washington Refugee Resettlement Project; let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

+ For leaders of the nations of the world, remembering especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, the members of our Congresses and Courts, that through their vision social agencies may prosper, fire and police officers be supported in their work, school systems discover new means for effective education, and senior citizens receive necessary services for increased mobility and health care; let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

+ For an increase in reliable public transportation between cities and towns, and for a willingness to use it, so that we may join together in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and protect this fragile earth, our island home; let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

+ For those throughout the world who are imprisoned for their faith, and those who live in constant fear of rape, death, and dislocation, that they not be forgotten in their distress; and also for those for whom our prayers are asked, Mary Jo Keating, Tom Witt, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur, Rebecca Bent, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Joan Beattie let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

+ For those who have died as innocent victims of this pandemic, and for all who mourn, that the Lord of mercy will wipe away their tears and hold them in his heart; let us pray.

Hear us, O Spirit of Truth.

With God's kingdom in our thoughts and expressed through our love for one another, we pause now so that all may add their own petitions or thanksgiving, either silently in their hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister 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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

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

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

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

Offertory Anthem *Ave Verum Corpus* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Translation: Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of humankind. From whose pierced flank flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ

our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *Missa Tertia Octavi Toni* Giovanni Croce (1557-1609)

*Translation: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He 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 he 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 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 Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

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

Agnus Dei *Missa Tertia Octavi Toni* Giovanni Croce (1557-1609)

*Translation: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

Communion will be distributed in one kind only, the bread, and will be received in the pews, as the Celebrant moves along to share. If an attendee does not wish to receive Communion, they need only to cross their hands over their chest so to signify. Others may receive as they wish, standing, kneeling, or seated. Please wait until the Celebrant has passed before removing your masks and consuming the bread.

Communion Hymns # 329 *Now, My tongue, The Mystery Telling*

- 1 Now, my tongue, the mystery telling
of the glorious Body sing,
and the Blood, all price excelling,
which the Gentiles' Lord and King,
once on earth among us dwelling,
shed for this world's ransoming.*
- 2 Given for us, and condescending
to be born for us below,
he with us in converse blending
dwelt, the seed of truth to sow,
till he closed with wondrous ending
his most patient life of woe.*
- 3 That last night at supper lying
mid the twelve, his chosen band,
Jesus, with the Law complying,
keeps the feast its rites demand;
then, more precious food supplying,
gives himself with his own hand.*
- 4 Word made flesh, the bread he taketh,
by his word his Flesh to be;
wine his sacred Blood he maketh,
though the senses fail to see;
faith alone the true heart waketh
to behold the mystery.*
- 5 Therefore we, before him bending,
this great Sacrament revere;
types and shadows have their ending,
for the newer rite is here;
faith, our outward sense befriending,
makes our inward vision clear.*

**6 Glory let us give and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run;
ever too his love confessing
who from both with both is One.**

for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is the Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we are not now receiving you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn # 551 *Rise Up, Ye Saints of God!*

- 1 Rise up, ye saints of God!**
*Have done with lesser things,
give heart and soul and mind and strength
to serve the King of kings.*
- 2 Rise up, ye saints of God!**
*His kingdom tarries long:
Lord, bring the day of truth and love*

and end the night of wrong.

3 Lift high the cross of Christ!

*Tread where his feet have trod;
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
rise up, ye saints of God!*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

The flowers on the High Altar today are given to the Glory of God

*Anyone may reserve altar flowers on a particular Sunday for memorials.
The Altar Flower Chart is in the Parish Hall or on the SJ Google Drive.*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Tom Hollinger, *8:00 Reader*

Sara Coles, *10:00 Reader*

Laura Daly, *Veejay (VJ)*

Hunter Brown, *Crucifer*

Sara Coles, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

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