



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Seventh Sunday *After Pentecost*

Morning Prayer

July 12, 2026 · 9:30 am

All are welcome to worship God in this place.

In church before the service, please respect others by being silent.

Bold print indicates all the people shall read aloud

Please stand in body or spirit.

OPENING HYMN Blessed Assurance

VF - 119

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vis - ions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
sa - vior am hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of his spi - rit, washed in his blood.
bove, ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my

sa - vior all the day long; this is my sto - ry, this is my

song, prais - ing my sa - vior all the day long.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OPENING SENTENCE

Enriching Our Worship 50

Officiant God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

CONFESSION OF SIN

Enriching Our Worship 19

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Enriching Our Worship 20

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

VENITE 95:1-7

Enriching Our Worship 21

All **God is the rock of our salvation: O come let us worship.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord;*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving*

and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God;*

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth,*

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it,*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

**For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.*
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

All **God is the rock of our salvation: O come let us worship.**

THE PSALM 65:1-14

Te decet hymnus

We will recite the psalm responsively.

- ¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- ²**To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, ***
because of their transgressions.
- ³Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- ⁴**Happy are they whom you choose**
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
- ⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- ⁶**You make fast the mountains by your power; ***
they are girded about with might.
- ⁷You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- ⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; ***
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- ¹⁰**You prepare the grain, ***
for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹¹You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- ¹²**You crown the year with your goodness, ***
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹³May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- ¹⁴**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,**
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

Lector A reading from Isaiah.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 12 A Song of Creation Enriching Our Worship 25 *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

I. The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, *
sing praise and give honor for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

Lector A reading from Romans.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE P A Song of The Spirit

Enriching Our Worship 38

Revelation 22:12-17

"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord,

"and brining my reward with me, *

to give to everyone according to their deeds.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *

the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who do God's commandments,

that they may have the right to the tree of life, *

and may enter the city through the gates.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *

with this testimony for all the churches.

"I am the root and the offspring of David, *

I am the bring morning star."

"Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride; *

"Come!" let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Lector A reading from Matthew.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on

the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. David Hill

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Enriching Our Worship 41

The people stand or kneel in body or in spirit.

All

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer 97

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 SUFFRAGES

Enriching Our Worship 42

Officiant Help us, O God our Savior;
People **Deliver us and forgive our sins.**
Officiant Look upon your congregation;
People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**
Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;
People **And your wonders among all peoples.**
Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**
Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**
Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the Day

Officiant O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

Officiant O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace

Book of Common Prayer 815

Officiant Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form VI

Book of Common Prayer 392

Lector In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Lector For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Lector For this community, the nation, and the world;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Lector For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Lector For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, remembering especially those on our prayer list;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Lector For the peace and unity of the Church of God, remembering especially The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan in the Anglican Communion; and in the Diocese of Ohio, Trinity Church, New Philadelphia; St. Paul's Church, Norwalk; and Christ Church, Oberlin and their surrounding communities;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Lector For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Anne, our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

People **For all who serve God in the Church.**

Lector For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. I invite you to add your intercessions, either aloud or in the silence of your heart.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

People **For your mercy is great.**

Lector We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. I invite you to add your thanksgivings, either aloud or in the silence of your heart.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God;

People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Lector We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People **Who put their trust in you.**

Officiant All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The congregation greets one another in the name of Christ.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Officiant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

1
2

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain
2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Book of Common Prayer 102

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 * 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me to
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
 Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Please join your fellow parishioners for coffee hour in the back of the nave after the service.

*If you are visiting today, please fill out a connection card in the pew racks or
 sign our guestbook in the hallway. We would love to stay connected with you!*

Sermon Helps

We long for the promises of God to be fulfilled. And what promises they are!

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off

Isaiah 55:12-13

“Myrtle is an evergreen shrub or tree known for its shiny green leaves, fragrant white or pink flowers, and aromatic berries. Culturally, it is an ancient symbol of love, peace, and purity often included in bridal bouquets.”

We first hear of thorns and briars or thistles in Genesis 3:

“and to the man God said, ‘Because you... have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it’, cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.”

Yet into this curse, God speaks blessing.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth.,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Conclusion

God’s promise is a promise of healing, strength, and abundant life for all,
And like the promised cypress and myrtle, they are taking root.

But we will never see them if we don’t watch for people offering healing, strength, and abundant life in Christ. And having seen them, we are invited to join them.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BISHOP OF OHIO

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

Dr. Richard Konzen

SENIOR WARDEN

Tony Manhollan

JUNIOR WARDEN

Martie Witt

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Karen Warchol

SEXTON

Adam Sullivan

*To make donations using your phone,
please scan this QR Code to be
directed to our website.
Thank you!*



THOSE WHO ARE SERVING TODAY

OFFICIANT	<i>Eva Sullivan</i>
ORGANIST / CHOIRMASTER	<i>Dr. Richard Konzen</i>
LECTOR	<i>Sam Dickey</i>
VIDEOGRAPHER	<i>Doug Hotchkiss</i>
ALTAR GUILD	<i>Cindy Sharish, Tom Simerlink</i>
USHERS	<i>Joe DeNiro</i>
COUNTER	<i>Jim Witt</i>
THE RED DOOR CAFE	<i>Julieann Cheng & Family</i>

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TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Thomas G. New & Mararet L. Franklin by Diane L. New; John M. Morris by Bill & Melissa Watson;

TODAY'S AUMBRY CANDLE is given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Keith Elliott by The Elliott Family; Thomas G. New by Diane New & Son.

We welcome you to *St. John's*.

If you are visiting with us, we ask that you fill out a Connection Card and place it in the offering plate, or sign the guest register located in the hallway.

WOMEN'S COFFEE Saturday, July 18th is Women's Coffee at 9am. Join us in welcoming women of our neighborhood to share a light breakfast and warm coffee.

THE RED DOOR FOOD PANTRY Saturday, July 18th is The Red Door Food Pantry at 10am. Volunteers are always needed and welcome! We will be unloading the trucks and packing bags on Friday July 17th.

SERVICE TIMES We will continue with one service at 9:30am through summer.

AMBIENT MUSIC MEDITATION All are welcome to our Ambient Music Meditation every 2nd and 4th Friday from 12pm-1pm in the Church. The next date is July 24th.

BOOK CLUB Join us Wednesday, August 12th, 6-7pm as we discuss *Whistler* by Ann Patchett. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served.



WE PRAY FOR those who have requested prayer this month:

T.J. Leo, Allen DeMarks, Vickey, Ginger Elliott,
Carmela, Twila, Ron Robertson, Gaynell Harris,
Olivia, Carlos & Julianna Caguiat, Donna Wynn, Brian
Sullivan, Mary Snyder, Pat Rogers, Karen Kelly, Bob,
Jason, Joe Edwards, Eleanor Congdon, Bill Bonte,
Pat Sekola, Roxanne DeNiro, George & Carol
Errington, Paul, Clinton Jost, Stan, Ronald Gould,
Fabio Ceccarani, Kevin Shelton, Suzanne Cinelli,