



St. John's Episcopal Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
St. John's welcomes you.

24th Sunday after Pentecost
10 a.m. 12 November 2023

*We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.
Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
“BCP” refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.*

THE WORD OF GOD

Tower Bells

Voluntary **Allegretto** (Sonata IV)
Felix Mendelssohn

Lift up your heads (*Stand*)..... **Hymn 436**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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.*

Song of Praise **Hymn S 236**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might
destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God
and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may
purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with
power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of Ruth

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. *[Ruth 1:1-18]*

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 127

Sung by the choir to an Anglican chant by R. H. Stanley

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the Lord watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

- 3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one’s youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

A Reading from the Book of Ruth

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to
seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now
here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have
been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing
floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes
and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself
known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When
he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and
uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” She
said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came
together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then
the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left
you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned
in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of
your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more
to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and
became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a
name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him
Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

[Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17]

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Rejoice! rejoice, believers (*Stand*) **Hymn 68**

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten
bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish
took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took
flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all
of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a
shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” [Matthew 25:1-13]

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

Children’s Chapel
Pre-K through 3rd grade children gather at the front steps of the chancel for a prayer before processing to Children’s Chapel

The Sermon
A brief period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed (Stand).....BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (Kneel) BCP 388

The Confession & Absolution..... BCP 360

The Peace..... BCP 360

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory God of the women
Slane, Irish ballad melody

If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to place your gift in the offering plates as they are passed in the pews. For instructions on online and text giving, see the back panel of this bulletin.

Presentation of Gifts (Sung by all, standing)

For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven.
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP 361

The Sanctus Hymn S 125

The Lord’s Prayer BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem..... Hymn 325, v. 1

Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John’s. Approach the altar in a double line in the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the bread in your hand. You may sip the wine directly from the common cup, or you may allow the Eucharistic Minister to dip the bread in the cup and return it to you. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine for any reason, fold your arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to walk to the rail, tell a greeter, and a minister will be happy to bring Communion to you at your pew.

Communion Hymns 325, v. 2-3, 324, 53, 61

The Postcommunion Prayer (Kneel)..... BCP 365

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors

If Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth to take Communion to the sick or homebound, the following is said.

Celebrant N., we send you forth in the Name of this Congregation, to N. bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

The Blessing

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (Stand)..... Hymn 690

The Dismissal BCP 366

Voluntary..... To God alone on high be glory, BWV 715
J. S. Bach

Tower Bells

Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God
by Helen Haines in thanksgiving for Scott Haines on his birthday.

St. John’s
Episcopal Church
211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-2636 | www.saint-john.org

Welcome!

Since 1829, St. John’s Episcopal Church has sought to love Christ and our neighbors in Tallahassee and the world. Whether you are a lifelong Christian or it is your first time entering a church, welcome. We are glad you are here.

About Today’s Readings

Today’s first two readings are selected with the Bishop’s permission to support St. John’s yearlong, parishwide journey through the Bible. The gospel is the regularly assigned gospel of the day. To view the usual lectionary readings, visit lectionarypage.net.

Your Gift Makes a Difference



St. John’s runs solely on the generosity of its members. Give today via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John’s Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.

Childcare

Free, professional childcare is provided 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. each Sunday.

Hearing System

To access our hearing loop system, set your hearing aid to tele-coil or “t” telephone mode. If your hearing aid does not have this capability, wireless headsets are available at the north tower entrance or from an usher.

Weekly Services

SUNDAY

8 a.m.....Holy Eucharist (Rite I).....Sanctuary
10 a.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II)Sanctuary
service is livestreamed
7:30 p.m.....Sung ComplineSanctuary

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m..... Evensong..... Chapel
Sung by the Choristers
12:10 p.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Chapel
with Healing Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please take this list home each week and commit to praying daily for your fellow parishioners.

Prayers: Julia Livingston, Kathy Hall, Gordon Dean, Mary Lee, Hollis, Kathy Shields, Eva and Bud, Diana Daktere, Tom, Bob and Lucille, J.T., Billy, Joan Matey, Petrina Herring, John Larson

The Departed: Lanny Larson, Susan Howes

Our Clergy: The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Bill Trexler, Priest Associate; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, The Rev. Dcn. Mike Hall, The Rev. Dcn. Linda Liebert-Hall, Deacons