

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PRAY. GROW. SERVE.



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

2175 1st Street, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
651.429.5351 | www.stjohnwilderness.org

A GREETING TO OUR GUESTS

We welcome all, really and truly!

We welcome you today to the parish of St. John in the Wilderness. We welcome cradle Episcopalians and those who say, “episco-what?” We welcome soccer dads and hockey moms; we welcome wild-eyed progressives, staunch conservatives, and everybody in between. If you’re a proud hippie, step right up. If you wear a tie, even with your pajamas, come on in. Tree-huggers, check. Drivers of gas-guzzlers, yup. Vegans and those who order only meatlover’s pizza are both welcome. We welcome those with crying newborns and those who avoid kids at all costs. We extend a welcome to those who are single, married, widowed, divorced, gay, bi, trans, or straight. This faith community has people with much, people with just enough, and a whole bunch somewhere in the middle.

We welcome you if you have always loved church or if church just isn’t your thing. You are welcome here if you are church shopping, if you already have a faith community that is just right, or if you have no intention whatsoever of joining a church. If you work too much or too hard, you are welcome here. If you haven’t worked a day in your life, you are welcome here. For those who love all things literary as well as those who have always had trouble choosing between “lie” and “lay,” this is your place. If you came here today because you felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit, welcome. If you came because your Mom guilted you into it... well, welcome. You had best do as your mother says!

In short, we welcome everyone to get to know this faith community of St. John’s. Really and truly. We welcome you because we all need community; we all need support; and many of us here at St. John’s have learned that faith really does help us along the journey.

Everyone is invited to participate fully in worship, to receive Holy Communion, and to join in the life of our faith community. We base our worship on *The Book of Common Prayer*, *The Hymnal 1982*, and *The Bible*. These books are in the pews. To learn more about St. John in the Wilderness, please speak to an usher or a clergy person. Following worship, please join us for refreshments and fellowship. Again, thank you for joining us today!

HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Episcopal Church uses a number of resources in our worship. While this bulletin contains most of what you need to participate fully, our music is found in the blue hymnals in the pew racks. We encourage all worshippers to acquaint themselves with all our worship resources: red copies of the **Book of Common Prayer** and black copies of the **Holy Bible** are also found in the pew racks. Feel free to find the prayers and the scripture readings in these books.*

Prelude

“Andantino”

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

Ringling of the Calling Bell

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal, no. 680

St Anne: “O God, our help in ages past”

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

Presider

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.*

Gloria

BCP, p. 356 or Hymnal no. S-280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 236

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider

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 people may be seated for the reading of the lessons.

First Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Reader A reading from Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

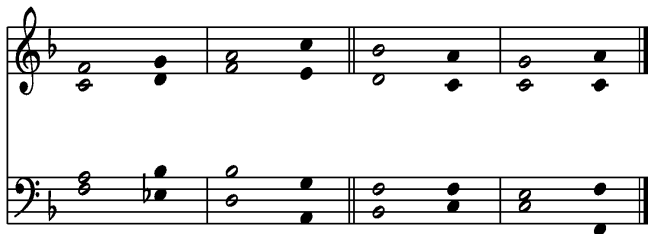
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Response: Psalm 90:1-12

BCP, p. 717
Hymnal, no. S-413

(8:00 service) Reader Let us read from the Psalm responsively by whole verse.
(10:00 service) The people will chant the Psalm as pointed below.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 1 Lord, you have been our | refuge *
from one generation to an- | other.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,**
or the land and the earth were | born, *
from age to age you are | God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and | say, *
“Go back, O child of | earth.”
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is |**
past *
and like a watch in the | night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a | dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the | grass.
- 6 **In the morning it is green and | flourishes; ***
in the evening it is dried up and | withered.

7 For we consume away in your dis- | pleasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indig- | nation.

**8 Our iniquities you have set be- | fore you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your | countenance.**

9 When you are angry, all our days are | gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a | sigh.

**10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even | eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are | gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your | wrath? *
who rightly fears your indig- | nation?

**12 So teach us to number our | days *
that we may apply our hearts to | wisdom.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader A reading from first Thessalonians.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal, no. 59

Merton: "Hark! a thrilling is sounding"

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if 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.”

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

Sermon

The Rev. Margaret Thor

After a period of silent reflection, please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

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.

Prayers of the People

Deacon

Let us pray for the Church and for the world responding to “Lord, in your mercy” with “Hear our prayer”.

Intercessor

Living Lord, let us cling to you as we navigate life’s challenges and the turmoil of clashing societies. We thank you for leading us always into fertile lands, and inviting us to a life of abundance and goodness. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Prosperous Lord, plant in us seeds of wisdom and patience, that we would so crave closeness to you and your ways as to be ever refreshed by your life-giving presence and proclamations. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Restorative Lord, we are damaged, and do damage. Soften our hearts, that we might get better at forgiveness, and remember all you’ve forgiven in us. Give us friendships and communion to guard us against arrogance and despondency. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we do not always know how to follow you, nor do we understand your teachings. Be patient in our stumblings as we strive to be your disciples. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Healing Lord, you are our ultimate physician. Bring your balm to all who are ill or injured, especially those we now name aloud or in our hearts. *(Pause to allow intercessions.)* Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, comfort us as we mourn and remember those who have died, especially those we now name aloud or in our hearts. *(Pause to allow intercessions.)* Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Presider

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 360

Deacon

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.**

Presider

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

Peace

BCP, p. 360

Presider

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

“Awake My Heart”

Music: Jane Marshall (b. 1924)

Text: Paulus Gerhardt (1607-1676)

Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.
Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day, with thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending.
My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
Thy Word my nurture, given to bring me on toward heaven.

Blessing of Our Pledges

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Please stand as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant

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.**

Celebrant

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him.

So come to this table

you who have much faith

and you who would like to have more;

you who have been to this table often,

and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow Jesus,

and you who have failed.

Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome at God's table. One may receive the sacrament either at the foot of the stairs leading to the Chancel or at the communion rail. Both bread and wine are offered at each location. We use traditional wheat based wafers but also offer gluten-free wafers. Please let the person distributing the bread know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. We use real wine. Please come forward to the communion rail if you would like to receive the sacrament using the common cup; please come forward to the foot of the stairs if you would like to receive the sacrament using a personal communion cup.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal, no. 655

Nyland: "O, Jesus, I have promised"

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

People and Celebrant

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.

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Hymnal, no. 551

Festal Song: "Rise up, ye saints of God"

Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Postlude in D-minor, op. 105"

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jackie and Adolph Danda.

Service Participants

Celebrants	The Gathered People of God
Altar Guild	Pris Campbell, Shelley Page, Cyndi Domin, Judy Caldwell, Virginia Johnston
Greeters	Tony Angelo (10:00)
Crucifer	Nick Pearson (10:00)
Verger	Gregory Hafner
Lectors	Sylvia Lovett (8:00) Larry Mahoney (10:00)
Ushers	Brent & Joanna Torgerson (10:00)
Eucharistic Ministers	Susan Blake, Tom Hove (8:00) Susie Mahoney, Judy & Harvey Caldwell (10:00)
Hospitality	Sarah Chilton, Laurie Otte
Livestream	Will McBride
Music Minister	David Lim
Deacon/Preacher	The Rev. Margaret Thor
Presider	The Rev. Kate Maxwell, OSB
Celebrant	The Rev. Arthur Hancock

St. John's Ministry Team

Vestry: George Gorbatenko, Sara Harker-Olson, Stephanie Sulentic,

Emily Brunner, Al Bradley, Barb Maloney

Jim DeMay, Will McBride, Janet Waller

Clerk: Jeanne Thoemke

Treasurer: Barru Kostyk

Junior Warden: Kathy Smith

Senior Warden: Harvey Caldwell

Nursery: Lorna Cessna, Magda Styczen

Sexton: Jake Malark

Financial Coordinator: Maureen Vruno | maureen@stjohnwilderness.org

Music Minister: David Lim | david@stjohnwilderness.org

Rising Generations Coordinator: Maggie DeSmet | maggie@stjohnwilderness.org

Parish Coordinator: Carrie Thomas | carrie@stjohnwilderness.org

Deacon: The Rev. Margaret Thor | margaret@stjohnwilderness.org

Associate Priest: The Rev. Kate Maxwell, OSB | kate@stjohnwilderness.org

Rector: The Rev. Arthur Hancock | art@stjohnwilderness.org