



A warm welcome to St. John's!

If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and place in the offering plate.

There is no wrong way to worship. We invite you to participate in the way that feels most comfortable and authentic to you. The people's responses are in **bold** and instructions for sitting, standing, and kneeling are in *red italics*. The illustrations throughout this bulletin are invitations to prayer—feel free to **color** them!

The Service Begins

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Preparing for Worship

Opening Hymn 293

Let's all sing!

"I sing a song of the saints of God"



1 I sing a song of the saints of God,
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and
his love made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for
hund - reds of thou - sands still, the world is bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And
Je - sus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And
joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was slain
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the green: they were all of them saints of
by a fierce wild beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -
or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just



God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

The Word of God

Greeting

Priest Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Priest Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Help us to be the best people we can be, to love one another and to love you. **Amen.**

Song of Praise, Hymn S280

Let's all sing!

"Glory to God"

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray together our opening collect, which “collects” the theme of the day.

Together **Loving God, the people here today are gathered to celebrate you. Help us to be great examples of your goodness and to feel your Holy Spirit in ourselves and each other. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The people are seated.

The First Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul wrote this letter to Christians in Rome around year 57, a very long time ago. He is urging them to live holy lives and to value each other's gifts.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

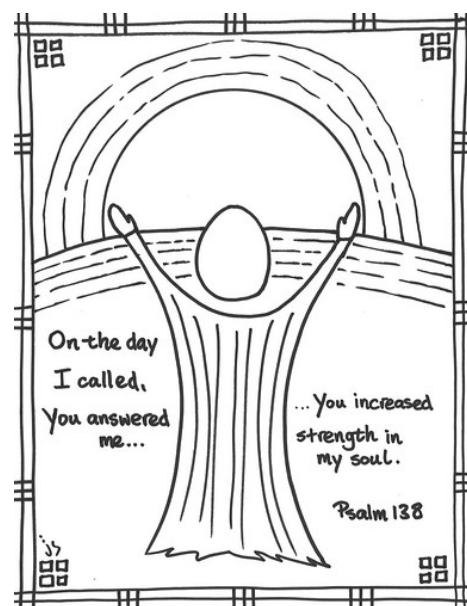
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 138

Reader We will now speak the Psalm, which is our way of responding to the scripture we just heard. We will say it by whole verse, alternating sides of the church. Left side begins, **right side follows.**

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;**
- ³ For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
- ⁴ **When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.**
- ⁵ All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁶ **They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.**
- ⁷ Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- ⁸ **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**
- ⁹ The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.



The people stand as able.

Gospel Hymn

Let's all sing!

"If you believe and I believe"

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to - geth - er pray, the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple free, and set God's peo - ple free, and set God's peo - ple free; the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple free.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth system.

If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to - geth - er
pray, the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple
free, and set God's peo - ple free, and set God's peo - ple
free; the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down and set God's peo - ple free.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Priest We will now hear a story from the life of Jesus of Nazareth, called the Gospel, which means “good news.” The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my

church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The people are seated.

The Sermon

The people stand as able.

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.

We believe in one God, who made everything that we can see and everything that we can't see.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who was the Son of God. He is fully divine. Mary, a human being, gave birth to Jesus. He was fully human. Jesus was nailed to the cross to show that he was willing to die for all of us. Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Three days after Jesus died, his body became alive again. He then ascended into heaven, where he is with God. He will come back to earth at the end of time, bringing with him the kingdom of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is God and coexists with Jesus and God the Creator. Together, the three make up the Trinity. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom through the words of other people, called prophets.

We believe in a church that is universal and that comes straight from Jesus Christ.

We name that the baptism of Jesus Christ is what we are baptized into. In his baptism, we are made new.

We hope to spend forever in heaven with God and all the people who have died.

The Prayers of the People

Priest Let us offer prayers to God who builds the church of Christ on the rock of faith and shares with us the keys of the kingdom.

Prayer Leader While I share these prayers, I invite you to turn the prayer rocks over in your hands. We will collect and bring them to the altar during the offertory. May they be a physical, earthly symbol of your prayers and act as special intentions that you set before God.

Prayer Leader For this holy gathering and its people, for Mary Margaret our priest, for Susan our bishop, and Sean our Presiding Bishop for the people of God in every place, and for all who seek the Lord.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader For those in authority, for Donald our President, for Abigail our Governor, for the Courts, for Congress and all legislatures, for the light of justice among all peoples.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader For our city and those who live in it, for the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader In thanksgiving for the ministry of children, youth, and college students, for the opportunities we have for formation and fellowship together. For those who are new to our community and those who are visiting today.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader For the sick and the suffering, travelers and those on vacation, prisoners, captives, and their families, and all those in danger and need. I now invite you to say or think the name of a person or people for whom you would like to pray. *Pause.* In your love,

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Prayer Leader God, we pray for those who have died, that they are dancing with you in heaven. I now invite you to say or think the name of a person or people for whom you would like to pray. *Pause.* In your love,

People **O Christ, hear us.**

Priest Gracious God, we do not always know what to say or how to pray; but we believe you hear us and know our hearts. Thank you for receiving all the different kinds of prayers we offer today. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet each other. Many people shake hands, give hugs, or use their fingers to make a peace sign from afar. You may say "Peace be with you" or something similar as you greet others.



Back-to-School Blessing

Those who have returned or are going back to school are invited to come forward—teachers, students, administrators, custodial staff, nurses, assistants, tutors, etc.—all are welcome.



The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, and shared in the peace, we now prepare ourselves for the gift of Holy Communion. At the offertory, we humbly offer back to God some of what God has given us, both in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. Please know that money is just one way people choose to share what they have—financial gifts are gratefully received but never required. Here at St. John's, it is tradition that people stand as the elements are brought forward and are seated once the bread and wine are on the altar.

Offertory Anthem

"I will bow"

Frederick Chatfield

Doxology

Let's all sing!

*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow: praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth, and awakens again in the spring. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Hea - ven and earth are full _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed 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 kneel or stand as able.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

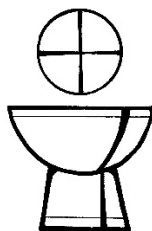
And now with St. John and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

People AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, *all are invited to join hands with those around them.* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

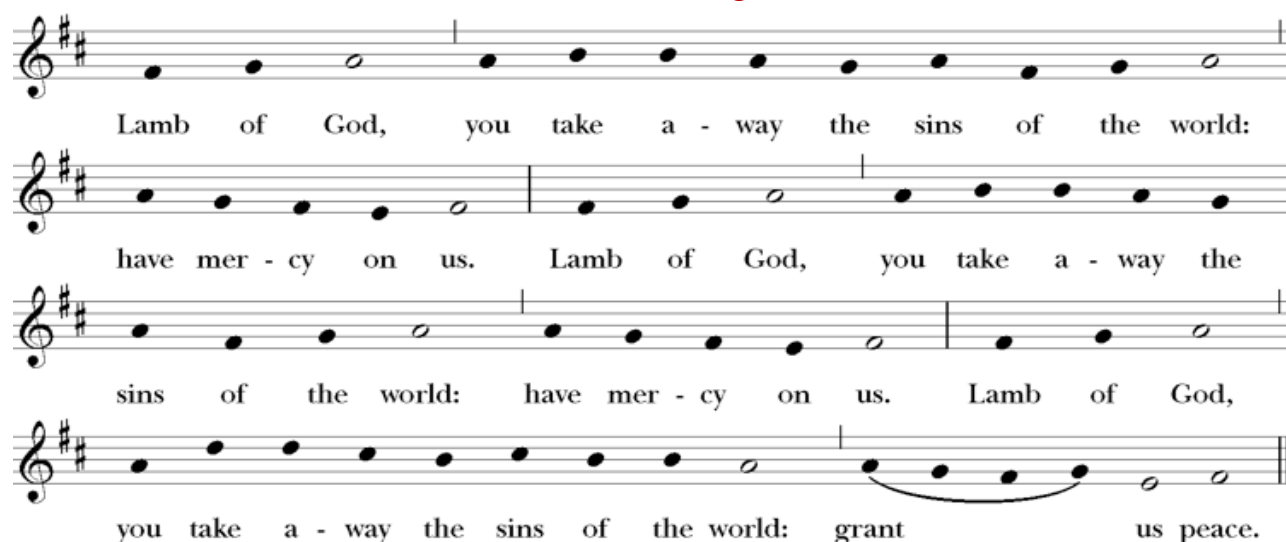
Together **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**



The priest then lifts up the bread and breaks it in half (the fraction). The congregation responds by singing.

The Fraction Anthem

Let's all sing!



Invitation to Communion

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. While we believe that it is most meaningful when done as a baptized Christian, no one will ever be turned away from God's table.

If you would like to come to the altar for communion:

Ushers will let you know when it is your turn to come forward. When you get to the altar, you may stand or kneel. If you would like to receive the bread (we use wafers), you may extend your hands and eat what is given to you. If you would like to drink the wine, the server will bring the chalice (silver cup) to your lips. Please help guide the cup and take a sip. The server then wipes the rim and rotates the cup. Wine is not required--receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist.

To decrease the spread of germs, the priest is the only person who dips the wafer into the wine. If this is how you would like to receive communion, please tell the priest.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please tell the priest at the altar.

If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing instead of receiving the bread and wine, please cross your arms across your chest. The priest will ask if she can touch your forehead with her thumb for the blessing. Touching the forehead is not required—you can say no!

We are delighted to bring Holy Communion or a blessing to folks in the pews—please tell an usher, and they will make sure the priest comes to you.

Song during Communion

Let's all sing!

"Let us break bread together"

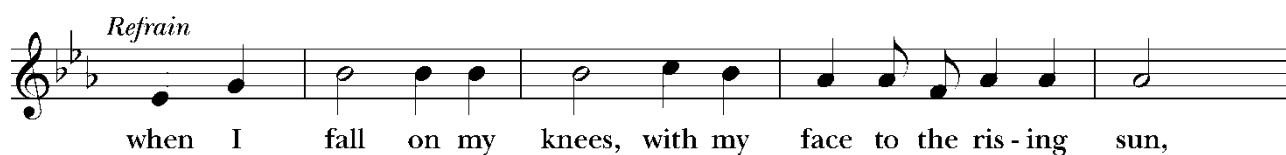


1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

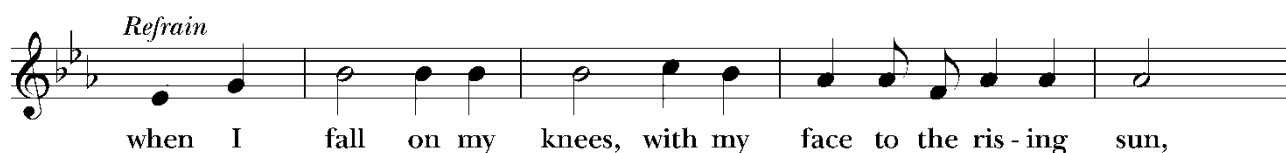


3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

Together **Thank you, God, for feeding us with the bread and the wine of Holy Eucharist. We pray that it will enliven our souls and make us bold to share your love, peace, and joy with the world. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Let's all sing!

"Guide my feet Lord"

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
Stand by me Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I

don't want to run this race in vain.
don't want to run this race in vain.
don't want to run this race in vain.

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ; Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God; Alleluia, alleluia!

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