The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025 8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in worship, and during the service they may enjoy the activity bags, which are in the Tower Entrance. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Please use the crosswalk to get there!
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: St. Anne arr. Benjamin M. Culli

Welcome and Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 680 O God, our help in ages past

St. Anne

THE WORD OF GOD

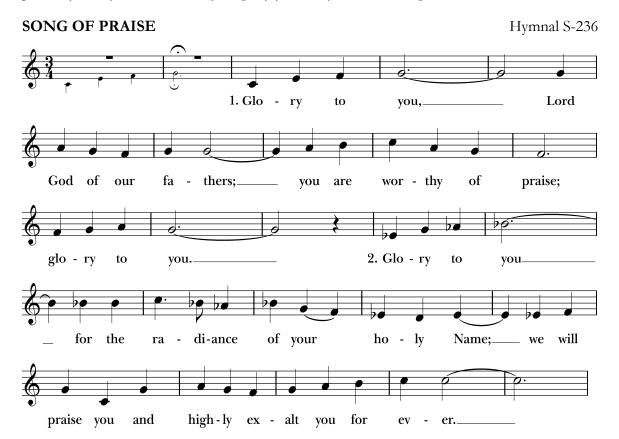
Acclamation & Response

BCP, p. 355

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Although our iniquities testify against us,

act, O Lord, for your name's sake;

our apostasies indeed are many,

and we have sinned against you.

O hope of Israel,

its savior in time of trouble,

why should you be like a stranger in the land,

like a traveler turning aside for the night?

Why should you be like someone confused,

like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,

and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

Thus says the Lord concerning this people:

Truly they have loved to wander,

they have not restrained their feet;

therefore the Lord does not accept them,

now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

Have you completely rejected Judah?

Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down

so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace, but find no good;

for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,

the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you.

Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;

do not dishonor your glorious throne;

remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Can any idols of the nations bring rain?

Or can the heavens give showers?

Is it not you, O Lord our God?

We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

Psalm 84:1-6 Quam dilecta!

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, * and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.

GRADUAL HYMN: No. 546 Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve

Siroë

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively. The Leader begins

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life: for the love you have shared with us in your Son Jesus Christ, for our families, friends, and neighbors, for the gift of this parish family, for all the abundance we know, and we ask you to be with those on our Holy Hikes retreat this week. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

For the Holy Church of God across time and space, that your grace may increase among us as we seek to share Christ with each other and the world. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all lay and ordained people who minister in your Church. We pray for José, our Bishop, and Sean, our Presiding Bishop. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for Donald, our President, and Josh, our Governor. We pray for congress and the courts and for our state and local officials. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for the people of this land. Grow in us a capacity for gratitude and patience, that we may encounter one another with open hearts and work together for the common good. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies. Reconcile us to nations and individuals who wish us ill and forgive us for the hurts we cause and the divisions we kindle. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble [especially ____]. Show your loving kindness to the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, and all who suffer. Be with refugees, prisoners, and those in danger. We pray for all who are struggling to get by, including those on our parish prayer list: for Patricia, Judy, Cheryl, Patrick, Susan, Jack, Jim, Ginger, Bob, Betsy, Chuck, Cindy, Chris, Gena, Dorinda, Tawana, Carla, and Emmy. Are there others?

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, especially Bob Decenzo,

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand or kneel.

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.

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

The Peace

All stand. 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 Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table. Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: 8:45 St. Anthony Chorale arr. Johannes Brahms

11:00 Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains Ladies of the Parish Choir Felix Mendelssohn

Text: Psalm 121

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy keeper will never slumber.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p. 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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.

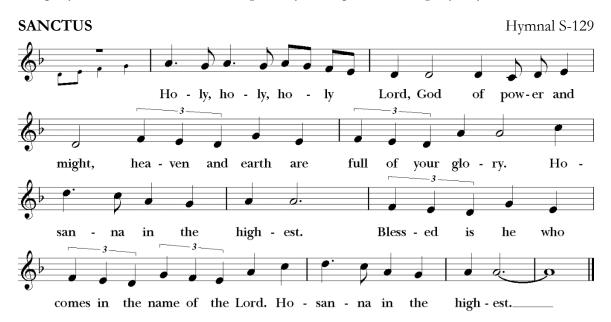
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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.



The people stand or kneel.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

People

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.

The Celebrant continues

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors in the back of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by sharing a musical offering while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's musical offering, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: Non nobis, Domine

attr. William Byrd

Non nobis, Domine non nobis sed nomini tuo da gloriam.

Translation: Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to thy name give glory.

COMMUNION HYMN: No. 314 Humbly I adore thee

Adoro devote

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth 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 share one bread and one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Celebrant and People

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 Blessing

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 636 How firm a foundation Foundation

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Foundation arr. Benjamin M. Culli

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People. As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Patricia Haire, Judy Oldenburg, Cheryl Cohen, Patrick Necessary, Susan Rex, Jack, Jim Gibbs, Ginger Quarles, Bob Sundeen, Betsy Thagard, Chuck King, Cindy Brinkmann, Chris Smith, Gena Gross, Dorinda Burnett, Tawana Gibbs, Carla Poe, and Emmy Weissman.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Celeste E. Giblin and Mary Fiquet, by Sara Fiquet.

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Stephen Askew, Patricia Tanzer Askew, Art Mack, Judy Petersen, and Bill Taylor.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. A glutenfree option is available upon request. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

T	HANK YOU FO	OR SERVING IN	N WORSHIP	
	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 26		All Saints Sunday November 2	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Bob Inglis	Candace Lewis	Mary Anne Inglis	Will Rodriguez
Acolytes	Laura Teel	Anita Reid	,	
Ushers	Clint Adams Debby Staton	Hilton Swing D. Christenbury	Jodi Sundeen Jim Spry	Bettie Orr Beau Singletary
Greeters	Brenda Hillyer Margaret Barker	Jann & Jim Cooper	Worth Gordon Cathryn Harrell	Diane & Sandy Skelton
Cart Drivers	Marlin Sanders	Tom Savage	BJ McKee & George Grzenda	Chris Kanipe
Videography (Service)	N/A	Tom Griswold	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Videography (Formation)	BJ McKee N/A – Parish Breakfast		kfast	
Altar Guild	Sandra Jeffery Lynne Miller Michael Jeffery (Brass)	Susan Gibbs Sara Kester	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Gibson Sims (Brass)	Laurie Morris Becky Petersen Elaine Harris (Sat.)
Flower Guild	Jan Tanner		Patrice German & Sandy Gulbrandsen	
Opening Gatekeeper	Clint Adams		David Dethero	
Closing Gatekeeper	Kitty Olson		Sandy Skelton	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Church: 1895 Greenville Highway | Office: 1905 Greenville Highway Mailing: PO Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5.

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Financial Administrator: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Gary German

Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer & Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton Personnel: Margaret Barker Stewardship: Jim and Jann Cooper

2025

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jerry Holt, Senior Warden

Jim Gibbs, Junior Warden

Kim Sanders Patrice German Laura Teel

2026

Jill Owen Jon Fitzpatrick Sandy Skelton

2027

Jim Cooper Kitty Olson Catherine Popp Steve Sittnick

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders & Bill Williams, Treasurers

Kim Sanders, Clerk

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Laura Teel

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel

Episcopal Church Women: Elizabeth Christenbury & Cava Sittnick

Flower Guild: Patrice German Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry Tanner Gatekeepers: BJ McKee Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Cathy & David Burge Greeters: Worth Gordon & Carmen Curtis

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury Ushers: Clint Adams & Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: The Revs. Stephen Askew & Patricia Tanzer Askew

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe