

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 11



July 18 and 19, 2026

The Prelude *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* from Cantata No. 147

J.S. Bach

The Opening Hymn *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

The Hymnal 1982, 609

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. Glory to God for ever and ever.

People **Blessed be our God. For ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 Gloria *said at 5pm, 9:30am sung*

The Hymnal 1982, 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.**

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19a

God comes to Jacob in a dream and, in a vision of a ladder between earth and heaven, renews with Jacob the promise made to his grandfather Abraham. Jacob will become the father of a great nation. Jacob awakes astonished at God's self-revelation and sets up a sacred pillar, calling the place "Bethel", a site which will one day become an important northern shrine city. A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust

of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

Domine, probasti

With wonderful wisdom God alone perceives the heights and depths of life.

We will read Psalm 139 responsively by half-verse.

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *

but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *

where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning *

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me *

and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *

and the light around me turn to night,"

11 Darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day; *

darkness and light to you are both alike.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *

try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *

and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:12-25

In this lesson Paul teaches that, if we follow our lower nature, we are enslaved and destined to death, but when we are moved by God's Spirit, we become God's children and heirs with Christ. The Spirit prompts us to call upon God as Father with the same Aramaic word (Abba) that Jesus used. Indeed, as heirs with Christ, the whole of creation is now linked with human destiny. As creation shares in the penalty of slavery to mortality and corruption, it will through our freedom as children of God participate in our full redemption. This is our saving hope, greater than any sufferings of this present age, and though still hidden, we now enjoy the first fruits of the Spirit. A reading from Paul's letter to the Church of Rome.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit

of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *God the sculptor of the mountain*

Wonder, Love and Praise, 746



1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,
 2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,
 3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,
 4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,

God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:
 God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:
 God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:
 God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:

you are womb of all cre-a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.
 you are gate of all de-liv'-rance, we are sight-less; lead us now.
 you are pres-ent ev-ery mo-ment, we are search-ing; meet us now.
 you are host at ev-ery ta-ble, we are hun-gry; feed us now.

Words: John Thornburg (b. 1954). Music: Sandria, Gerre Hancock (b. 1934).

The Gospel *all standing, as able*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

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 substance with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, was incarnate of
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who 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

Lay Leader Let us offer prayers for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members. O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom you chose us, before the foundation of the world, and destined us in love to be your own: help us to pray for all your children. For the life of the world; that your peace may be known and may prevail.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember those on our prayer list: We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Judy, John, Mia, Bruce, Cheryl, Jim, Alden, and Lily. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power:

For Donald our President, for Maura our Governor, for our Senators Edward and Elizabeth, for our Representative Bill, and for all our elected officials,

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of your glory:

In our prayers, we hold our Presiding Bishop- Sean, our Diocesan Bishop-Julia, and our Rector Alan.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember all those who have died in the hope of resurrection.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Tom O'Toole, by Anne Starbard.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks for the churches of the Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay Deanery: **Grace Church** (New Bedford), **St. Andrew's Church** (New Bedford), **St. Martin's Church** (New Bedford), the **Society for the Relief of Widows, Widowers and Orphans of Episcopal Clergy**, and the **Society for the Relief of Aged or Disabled Episcopal Clergy**.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I invite you to lift up your personal thanksgivings and petitions.

Celebrant O God, you exerted your strength and power when you raised Christ from the dead, putting everything in subjection beneath his feet: accept the prayers which we offer in Christ's name for the world you have created and redeemed; through Christ in whom you have set forth the mystery of your will, to unite all things in heaven and on earth, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

**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.**

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

The Peace *Then, all standing in body or spirit.*

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Music *It is well with my soul*

solo - Barbara Peterson

The Offertory Prayer, at 5pm and 9:30pm then, all standing in body or spirit.

All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.



The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching our Worship, Form 2

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say)

The Sanctus *said at 5pm; sung at 9:30am*

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.

The Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982, S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with (— and) all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Fraction 5pm

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **grant us peace.**

The Fraction Anthem 9:30am

***Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
Feed us now, give us life,
Lead us to one another.***

As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again. ***Refrain***

5 You are the bread of peace,
you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love. ***Refrain***

Bread of life, #80 from *Voices Found*—Copyright © Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR 97218. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Hold out your hand to receive the host. You may receive the wine by the chalice or in the small cups in the tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, cross your arms and wait for the minister to say *The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation*.

If you **prefer to receive a blessing** you may cross your arms across your chest.

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you would like to **remain in your seat** and receive communion, please **let an usher know**.

Postcommunion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for-ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

The Closing Hymn *Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise*

The Hymnal 1982, 345

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Emperor's Fanfare*

Antonio Soler

Announcements

Once again, we are indebted to a small but mighty group of volunteers who helped with our first Summer Concert on Saturday, July 11th. There was more than enough food available for purchase, a 50-50 raffle, pleasant greeters, and music by “Margie and Charlie”. Thanks to the Barnstable County Sheriff’s Department for setting up the tent! If you were not there, be sure to catch the next concert on Saturday, July 25 at 6:30, under the tent in the back yard, with the New Orleans Social Club. Extra hands are always welcome!

Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival: continues through July 19, 2026. Get the latest information at capecodhydrangeafest.com. Participating from St. John’s are Mary and Arnold Howe's garden at 1124 Old Stage Road, Centerville mornings through the remainder of the week.

St. John’s “Golf Outing for 4” raffle: Tickets are available now through August 29th

Contact the Parish Office or see a volunteer after worship for your chance for:

18 holes for 4 players with carts at White Cliffs Country Club in Plymouth OR

18 holes for 4 players with carts at Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee

Tickets are \$10 each or 6 tickets for \$50. Raffle tickets are available for purchase at each service, in the Church Office during business hours, and the Thrift Shop. The drawing will be held at the final Summer Breeze Concert on August 29th.

In anticipation of the annual school supplies drive, Staples currently has them on sale if you would like to stock up. Each year, St. John’s contributes school supplies to the Cape Cod Council of Churches and local schools, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. Collection details will be forthcoming.

The BARN has closed up shop for the time being. Plans are in the works for a Holiday themed re-opening. Stay tuned!

Hour of Prayer: The church is open for your quiet prayers weekly, on Wednesdays, from 12-1pm.

Caring for Creation Committee: Meeting Fridays at 11:00 AM Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>.

If you have recently donated a floral arrangement, and taken the vase home, kindly return the vase to the church office, so that they can be returned to Stop and Shop. Thank you!

The Parish Office will be closed for vacation from July 20 through July 24th, and will re-open Tuesday, July 28th. Office emails will not be checked. **In case of emergency,** you may text Fr. Al at 508-505-5668. He will be in and out of the office during the week. There will be no Messenger on July 24, and the website will not be updated next week.

July 18-26, 2026

Saturday, July 18

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, July 19

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, July 20

Office Closed

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, July 21

Office Closed

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, July 22

Office Closed

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church

Thursday, July 23

Office Closed

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6-7pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, July 24

Office Closed

11am Caring for Creation Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

Saturday, July 25

9:30am AA, Undercroft

11am Memorial Service for Cynthia Henrich

Collation in Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Healing Service

6:30pm **Summer Concert Series**

Sunday, July 26

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse
Director of Music: Misao Koyama
Soloist: Rev. Barbara Peterson
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Lillian Woo
Lectors: Jann Czarnetzki and Eileen Donaruma
Altar Guild: Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault
Usher: Rusty Page and Rick Hulslander
Hospitality: Volunteers Needed for serving punch on the lawn

Liturgical Note: Introduction to the readings come from Fredrick Borsch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3rd Edition" Morehouse 2009.

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.



Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854
159 Main St, Sandwich, MA

Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm **Parish Office** 508-888-2828

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