



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 15

August 15 and 16, 2026

The Prelude *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend*

J.S. Bach

The Opening Hymn *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*

The Hymnal 1982, 410

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 God's 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, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15

Our Hebrew scripture lesson relates a decisive moment in the story of Joseph as he reveals himself to his brothers, who then journey home to tell their father Jacob that his son is still alive. The brothers are at first overwhelmed by the discovery that the brother they had sold into

slavery is now Pharaoh's right-hand man. Joseph tells them not to be upset: this had all been part of God's plan to preserve Israel during the coming time of famine. A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

This Psalm celebrates the blessing of harmonious people.

We will read the Psalm responsively breaking at the half-verse.

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Lesson

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

In this reading Paul sets forth his belief that God plans to bring Jews as well as Gentiles to salvation. This apostle to the Gentiles continues to wrestle with a difficult question: why is it that so many of Jesus' own people have not accepted him as the Christ? God has not rejected the Jewish people who were foreknown, yet now Jews and Gentiles are equal in that all have been disobedient to God. In the next step the Jewish people will see the mercy shown to the Gentiles and want themselves to share in it in their own way. A reading from Paul's letter to the church of Rome.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn Sing praise to God

The Hymnal 1982, 408

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

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

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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, Cheryl, Marilyn, John, Alan, Mia, Jimmy, Jim, Lily, Catherine, Ann, Regina, Gerry, Herb, and Al. 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 official. 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, especially Phyllis Briggs. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God in celebration of Molly's birthday by Eileen and John Donaruma. 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 Mystic Valley Deanery:

Church of the Good Shepherd (Reading), **St. John's Church** (Saugus), **Emmanuel Church** (Wakefield), **The Third Order, Society of St. Francis**, and **Congregations: Parish Historians**. 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 offers a concluding collect.

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 God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Music *The peace of God*

G.F. Handel, setting by Edward Broughton

The Offertory Prayer, *at 5pm and 9:30am 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.

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*

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

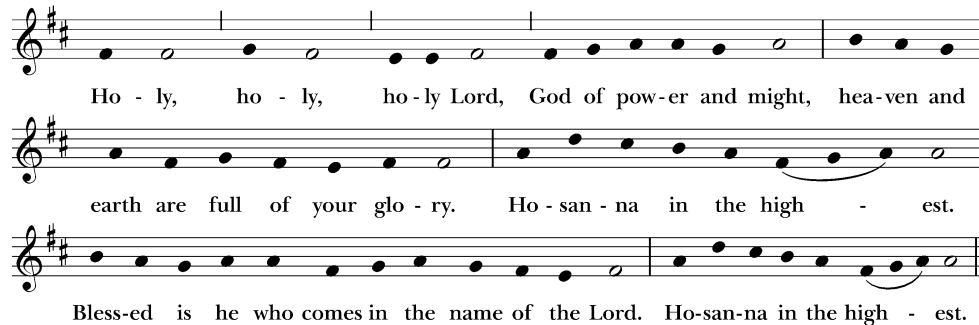
Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Sanctus *sung at 9:30am*

The Hymnal 1982, S-124



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, 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 friends. 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.

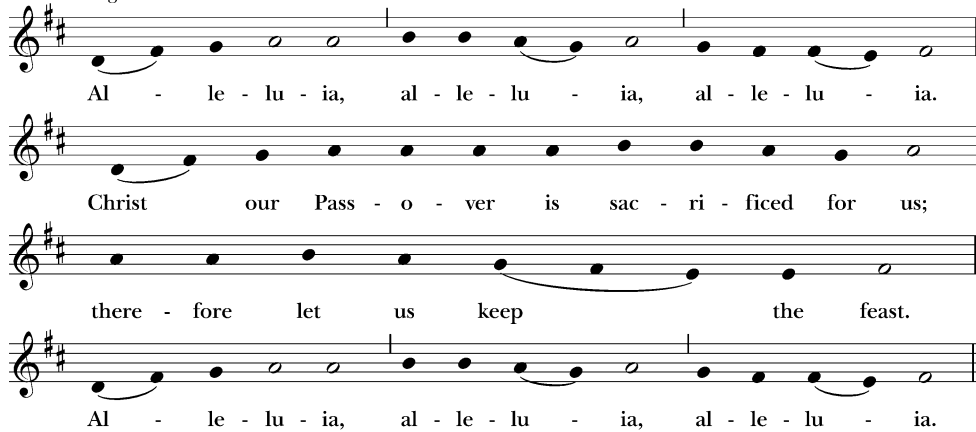
Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

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

The Fraction Anthem 9:30am

This setting is not used in Lent.

The Hymnal 1982, S-154



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 *Thou, whose almighty word*

The Hymnal 1982, 371

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Bring your Thanks to God*

Paul Taylor

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

Announcements

CONCERT SERIES NEWS: Our final **concert** is Saturday, August 29 with Tunes at Noon, an eclectic folk group. Join us at 6:30, under the tent in the backyard for great food, good company, fun music, and take a last chance on our

golf and 50-50 raffles. Bring a comfy chair, friends, and family members. Extra hands are welcome to help with set-up, food serving, raffle ticket sales, and clean-up. Concerts are free and open to the public; food and beverages are available for purchase. **THANK YOU** to our steadfast group of volunteers who continue to help with these concerts! The golf raffle winners will be drawn at this final concert. Winners need not be present.

ALL PARISH PICNIC: We are taking the Second Saturday Social on the road to the American Legion Pavilion, 20 Main Street, Sandwich on **Saturday, September 12th** at 4pm. Our worship service with Holy Eucharist starts at 5pm, followed by a potluck supper. Join us for food, fellowship, fun, and a worship service. All ages are welcome. Let Diana Stanley know what special potluck dish you will bring at: Stanleyzook@gmail.com, or check for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call the office to sign up. There will be a fire pit for S'mores!

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 to win:

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL: THANK YOU to everyone who has filled the basket with school supplies to be donated to the Cape Cod Council of Churches and Hands of Hope Pantry! There is plenty of room for more and the **deadline** for this program is **August 24**. New and gently used backpacks, pencils, pens, highlighters, crayons, markers, notebooks (regular and college-ruled), filler paper, and 2-pocket folders are the most requested items. Your generous contributions can be left in the basket in the Narthex or bring them to the office during business hours (9am-2pm Tues-Fri).

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>

Looking for a creative outlet? Why not consider joining St. John's Common Threads group. This faithful group of volunteers meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 1pm to craft prayer shawls, christening blankets, wedding quilts, and more for a number of local organizations and parishioners. No experience is needed and we can use your help in so many ways. You can bring your own craft to work on if you wish.

PORCHFEST/SANDWICH 2026: We are gearing up for this town-wide celebration on Saturday, September 19th from 1-4pm. St. John's Thrift Boutique porch will be used for musical groups between 1 and 4pm. Stop by for some toe-tapping music, and shopping.

August 15-22, 2026

Saturday, August 15

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

6:30pm Summer Concert Series

Sunday, August 16

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, August 17

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, August 18

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, August 19

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church

Thursday, August 20

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, August 21

11am Caring for Creation Zoom link:

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

Saturday, August 22

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Director of Music: Misao Koyama

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Deacon Cathy Harper

Lectors: Lillian Woo and Deb Roberts

Altar Guild: Jann Czarnetzki, Judy Cohen, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault

Usher: Mary Howe

Hospitality: Volunteers Needed for serving punch on the lawn.

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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The Rev. Barbara Peterson, Priest Associate (retired)

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector 508-888-2828extension 2, text 508-505-5668, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org

