



Episcopal Church

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 16

August 22 and 23, 2026

The Prelude *Partita on "Auf meinen lieben Gott" ~ Choral, Double, Sarabande, Courante, and Gigue* Dietrich Buxtehude

The Opening Hymn *The church's one foundation* *The Hymnal 1982, 525*

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

A new king arises in Egypt who oppresses the growing population of Israelites and orders all Hebrew boys to be killed at birth. But the infant Moses is set afloat on the Nile in a desperate attempt to preserve his life. Ironically, it is Pharaoh's own daughter who finds and keeps the child, undermining not only her unjust father, but an oppressive future regime. A reading from the book of Exodus.

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people

are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 124

Nisi quia Dominus

Psalm 124 is a psalm of thanksgiving for deliverance.

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

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

In this lesson, Paul urges the early church in Rome to devote themselves to God’s service and to recognize that with different functions they are all members of one body. Instead of dead animals, they are to offer themselves as living sacrifices. Their way of life is to be quite different from worldly standards. So will they know the will of God. All are to live in humility, realizing that they have their various gifts through God’s grace. A reading from Paul’s letter to the church of Rome.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *Like the murmur of the dove's song*

The Hymnal 1982, 513

The Gospel *all standing, as able*

Matthew 16:13-20

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Catherine Harper, Deacon

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 the victims of gun violence and natural disaster. 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, Al, Olivia, Jessica, Shaun, and Bailey. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble. I invite your prayers and petitions either silently or aloud. 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 and Kristine Kent. 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: **St. Elizabeth's Church** (Wilmington), **Parish of the Epiphany** (Winchester), **St. John's Church** (Winthrop), **Trinity Church** (Woburn), and **Congregations: Sextons and Custodians**. 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 *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

sung by Susan and Glen Carliss

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

People **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

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: 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

The Hymnal 1982, S-154

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 *Lord, you give the great commission*

- 1 Lord, you give the great commission:
 "Heal the sick and preach the word."
 Lest the church neglect its mission,
 and the gospel go unheard,
 help us witness to your purpose
 with renewed integrity.

Wonder, Love and Praise 780

Refrain: *With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

- 2 Lord, you call us to your service:
 "In my name baptize and teach."
 That the world may trust your promise,
 life abundant meant for each,

give us all new fervor,
draw us closer in community. **Refrain**

3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty. **Refrain**

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall*

Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society. **Refrain**

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring;
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity. **Refrain**

setting by Natalie Jenne

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 fold group. Join us at 6:30pm, 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 through August 29th. Contact the Parish Office, visit the Thrift Boutique, 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 in the Thrift Shop. The drawing will be held at the final Summer Breeze Concert on August 29th. Thank you Anne Geary Roche for coordinating this raffle for us!

BACK TO SCHOOL: THANK YOU to everyone who has already filled the basket twice with school supplies to be donated to the Cape Cod Council of Churches and Hands of Hope Pantry! Donations will be accepted through August 24th. 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 12noon-1pm.

CARING FOR CREATION COMMITTEE: Meeting Fridays at 11am via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>. Ask Steve Tom or Fr. Al for details.

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.

INVITATION: The family of Janet Richards invites parishioners and friends to a Luau in her memory at 9 Lan Road, Sandwich on Thursday evening, August 27th from 4-7pm. Kindly RSVP to Tom Richards at 508-648-0475 (call or text).

August 15-22, 2026

Saturday, August 22

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 23

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, August 24

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, August 25

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, August 26

12noon-1pm Open Prayer, Church

Thursday, August 27

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, August 28

11am Caring for Creation Zoom link:

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

Saturday, August 29

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

6:30pm "Last" Summer Concert

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Preacher: The Reverend Catherine Harper, Deacon

Director of Music: Misao Koyama, Susan and Glen Carliss vocalists

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Lillian Woo and Jared Cohen

Lectors: Lillian Woo and Deb Roberts

Altar Guild: Phyllis Helfrich, Bev Messersmith, and Anne Miller

Usher: Mary Howe

Hospitality: Volunteers Needed for serving punch on the lawn. See Fr. Al.

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

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