St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *O praise ye the Lord (vv. 1, 2, 4)* Hymnal #**432**

1. O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
   rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
   ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
   and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

2. O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
   in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;
   praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
   praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

4. O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
   to him be outpoured all ages along!
   For love in creation, for heaven restored,
   for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Opening Acclamation:

Blessèd be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be 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.***

Confession:

'How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,' says the Lord, 'but you would not come to me.'

Let us as wayward children return to God and confess our sins.

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.

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Gloria — *Heritage Mass* – in pew rack.

Glory to God in the highest!
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.

Collect of the Day — A Prayerbook for Australia

O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: Transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to the world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Prophet Jeremiah (15:15-21)*

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 26:1-8

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 ***Test me, O Lord, and try me; ****
examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.

4 ***I have not sat with the worthless, ****
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.

6 ***I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, ****
that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 ***Lord, I love the house in which you dwell ****
and the place where your glory abides.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Romans (12:9-21).*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn: *Take up Your Cross (vv. 1-3)* 1982 Hymnal #**675**

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,
   if you would my disciple be;
   take up your cross with willing heart,
   and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross, let not its weight
   fill your weak sprit with alarm;
   his strength shall bear your spirit up,
   and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
   and let your foolish heart be still;
   the Lord for you accepted death
   upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (16:13-20).*
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sequence Hymn: *Take up Your Cross (v. 5)* 1982 Hymnal #**675**

5. Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
   nor think till death to lay it down;
   for only those who bear the cross
   may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Homily Fr. Walter Connelly

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Peace and Announcements

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory: *Will you Come and Follow Me (vv. 1-4)* SUMMONS by John Bell

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
   Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
   Will you let my love be shown?
   Will you let my name be known?
   Will you let my life be grown in you
   And you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
   Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
   Will you risk the hostile stare
   Should your life attract or scare?
   Will you let me answer prayer in you
   And you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded man see if I but call your name?
   Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
   Will you kiss the leper clean
   And do such as this unseen?
   And admit to what I mean in you
   And you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
   Will you quell that fear inside and never be the same?
   Will you use the faith you've found
   To reshape the world around
   Through my sight and touch and sound in you
   And you in me?

Doxology (*v. 3*) Hymnal #380

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.

Merciful God, receive all we offer you this day. Give us grace to love one another that your love may be made perfect in us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord ***Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving *Common Worship* - Prayer G

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time, you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
+Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embrace a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled, your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Savior, born of Mary, to be the living bread in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came together with his friends and, taking the bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death,
Rising, you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and his rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the Body and Blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith and preserve her in peace. Remember Sean, our presiding bishop; Julia, Ian and Mary our bishops, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all peoples of the Middle East; may they know your healing presence and quest for peace.

Remember all those in need of your abiding presence, especially those named on our weekly prayer list.

Remember Lawrence LeBlanc and all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

Bring us at the last with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours 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.

Fraction: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) *Heritage Mass* – in pew rack

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshiping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

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.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" *(Mt 11:28-29).* All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

Post-communion Prayer

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.

Blessing:

Life is indeed short, and we have so little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love and hasten to be kind. And the blessing of our gracious God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Recessional: *Lord, Make us Servants of your Peace* Hymnal #**593**

1. Lord, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.

2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

3. Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.

4. May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.

5. Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day:
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Welcome to St John's Episcopal Church. All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Proceed up the aisle on the right, allowing room on the left for others to return. You may kneel or stand at the rail to receive. Most people receive the consecrated Host in the hands, and some receive on the tongue. We have not returned to the Common Cup but offer individual Communion Cups. Please deposit the empty cups in the tray as you return. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Parish Calendar

Aug 30 Sun Boston Harbor Cruise, 4-6pm (*see details below - boards at 3:30*)
Sept 14 Sat Founders Day / Ice Cream Social (*10am–2pm or until supplies last*)
Sept 18 Fri Lobster Roll Sale (*order deadline: Tues., Sept. 15th*)
Oct 10 Sat Roast Beef Dinner (*see flyer or visit church website: StJohnsSaugus.org)*
Oct 25 Sun Visitation with Bishop Julia (*see below*)

Announcements:

Boston Harbor Cruise, **Sunday, August 30th**: from Winthrop Town Pier (next to Winthrop Yacht Club). A head count is necessary – please let us know if you are coming.

Prayer List: Come **September 1**, we will rebuild our prayer list from scratch. Please notify the office of the people for whom we should pray. Each name shall remain on the list for four weeks unless you request otherwise.

Episcopal Visitation: On **October 25**, Bishop Julia will celebrate Confirmation and Reception during her joint Visitation with St. John's Winthrop AND St. John's Saugus. If you are interested in Confirmation or Reception on Oct 25, please speak with Fr. Walter.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Week One of the Month:
Emily Graves Autori, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Roger Nelson

Week Two:
Will Hare, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, John K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, and Joe W.

Week Three:
Erica Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Lisa P., Catherine Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, Nina Lafauci, Steve P., Gary Battite, and Norma Jordan

Week Four:
Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Jesse Tucker, and Iris Mendez

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter J. Connelly, Jr., Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Lay Reader ~ Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.