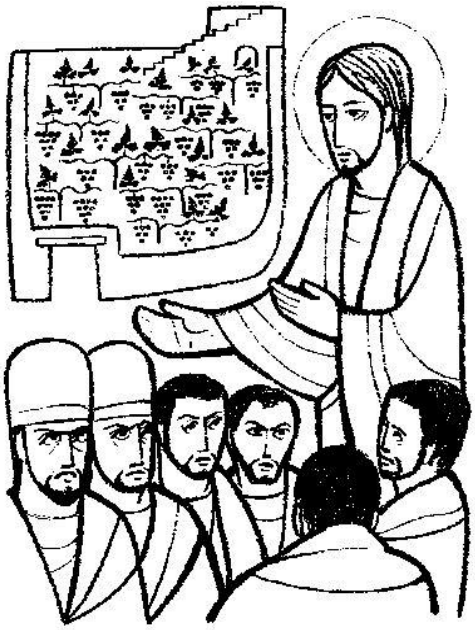
St. John's Episcopal Church
Saugus, Massachusetts



19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *Christ is Made the sure Foundation* (vv. 1-4) Hymnal #**518**

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness,
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

4. Here vouch-safe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, forever
with the blessèd to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

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:

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders, and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone: Grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us, we may become living stones built up into your dwelling place, a temple holy and acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from the *The Prophet Isaiah (5:1-7)*

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned

or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry! The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 80:7-14

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 ***You have brought a vine out of Egypt; ****
you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.

10 ***The mountains were covered by its shadow ****
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.

12 ***Why have you broken down its wall, ****
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 ***Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;***
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Philippians (3:4b-14)*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his

resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn: *The great Creator of the Worlds (vv. 1-4)* Hymnal #**489**

1. The great Creator of the worlds, the sov'reign God of heav'n,
   his holy and immortal truth to all on earth hath giv'n.

2. He sent no angel of his host to bear this mighty word,
   but him thru whom the worlds were made, the everlasting Lord.

3. He sent him not in wrath and power, but grace and peace t bring;
   in kindness, as a king might send his son, himself a king.

4. He sent him down as sending God; in flesh to us he came;
   as one with us he dwelt with us, and bore a human name.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (21:33-46).*
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sequence Hymn: *The great Creator of the Worlds (v. 5)* Hymnal #**489**

5. He came as Savior to his own, the way of love he trod;
   he came to win us by good will, for force is not of God.

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.

Prayers of the People* *New Zealand Prayerbook – Form Two*

Lay Leader: Blessed are you, eternal God,
to be praised and glorified for ever.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.
May we all be one that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,
that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We remember William, Jean, Robert, and Eva Bentley; Louis, Mary, and Priscilla Anthony; Matthew, Dorothy, and Maureen Connors; James & Doris Smith, Homer & Marguerite Simmons, Dorothy Ambrose, and all those who have died.
Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Remembering Stacie Testa, Steve Perkins, Joanne Felci, Keelan Pothier, Kathy Pothier, Janet Lancaster, Malcolm Silva, Manuel Bettencourt, Emily Graves Autori, Matt, and Jeanne Kelly-Smith; have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.
In your presence may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes and families.
Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.
Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.
Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.
Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

Priest: O loving God, keeper of the vineyard, support your people by your Holy Spirit, so that we may bring forth the fruits of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, the eternal vine.
Amen.

** Prayer requests are for four weeks unless otherwise specified.*

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: *Hail, Thou once despised Jesus (vv. 1-3)* Hymnal # **495**

1. Hail, thou once despised Jesus!
   Hail, thou Galilean king!
   Thou didst suffer to release us;
   thou didst free salvation bring.
   Hail, thou universal Savior,
   bearer of our sin and shame!
   By thy merit we find favor:
   life is given through thy name.

2. Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
   all our sins on thee were laid:
   by almighty love anointed,
   thou hast full atonement made.
   All thy people are forgiven
   through the virtue of thy blood:
   opened is the gate of heaven,
   reconciled are we with God.

3. Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
   there forever to abide;
   all the heavenly host adore thee,
   seated at thy Father's side.
   There for sinners thou art pleading:
   there thou dost our place prepare;
   ever for us interceding,
   till in glory we appear.

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.

God of truth, receive all we offer you this day. Make us worthy servants, strong to follow in the pattern of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ***Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer A

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with Blessèd Mary of Nazareth, Blessèd John the Evangelist, and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Franciscan Blessing:

May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart. ***Amen.***

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for Justice, freedom and peace. ***Amen.***

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy. ***Amen.***

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: *O Love, how Deep, how Broad (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)* Hymnal #**448**

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

2. For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave up his dying breath.

5. For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

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. At St John's we share the Cup by intinction: dip (intinct) the Host in the consecrated Wine when presented with the Cup. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Let the greeters know if you would prefer to receive Holy Communion in the pew. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Parish Calendar

Oct	**4**	**Sun**	**Blessing of the Animals, (Saugus) church lawn, 3pm**
Oct	10	Sat	Roast Beef Dinner (*RSVP by Oct 2nd – see below*)
Oct	14	Wed	Vestry, Hurl Room, 6-8pm
Oct	18	Sun	Baptism
Oct	25	Sun	Joint Visitation with Bp Julia Whitworth, in Saugus at 9am
Nov	7	Sat	Rappie Pie Fête, Saugus, 12-3pm
Nov	11	Wed	Vestry, Hurl Room, 6-8pm
Nov	14	Sat	Diocesan Convention

Announcements/Reminders:

Roast Beef Dinner, Saturday, Oct. 10th: **Please reserve seats or 'to-go' dinners by Oct. 2nd.** To help streamline RSVPs and order processing we kindly ask for prepayment. Visit our website for details to reserve and pay online, or stop by the parish office during regular business hours.

Episcopal Visitation, Sunday, Oct. 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.

Prayer List

Stacie Testa, Steve Perkins, Joanne Felci, Keelan Pothier, Kathy Pothier, Janet Lancaster, Malcolm Silva, Manuel Bettencourt, Emily Graves Autori, Matt, and Jeanne Kelly-Smith

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter J. Connelly, Jr., Priest-in-Charge ~ Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Linda Graves, Lay Reader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.