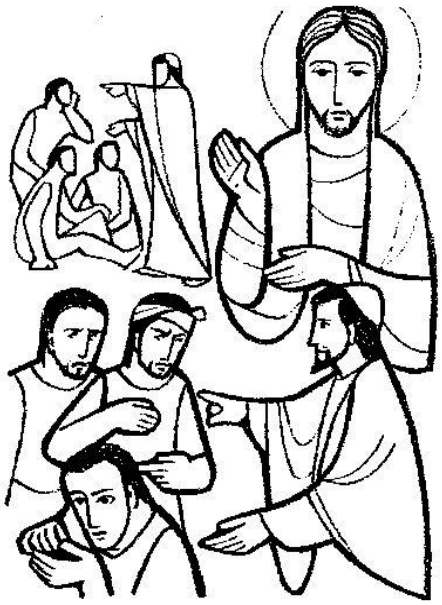
St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven* Hymnal #**410**

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
   to his feet your tribute bring;
   ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
   evermore his praises sing:
   Alleluia, alleluia!
   Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favor
   to his people in distress;
   praise him still the same as ever,
   slow to chide, and swift to bless:
   Alleluia, alleluia!
   Glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
   well our feeble frame he knows;
   in his hand he gently bears us,
   rescues us from all our foes.
   Alleluia, alleluia!
   Widely yet his mercy flows.

4. Angels, help us to adore him;
   ye behold him face to face;
   sun & moon, bow down before him,
   dwellers all in time and space.
   Alleluia, alleluia!
   Praise with us the God of grace.

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

Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: Liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Prophet Jonah (3:10-4:11).*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

Psalm 125

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 ***Every day will I bless you ****
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

4 ***One generation shall praise your works to another ****
and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

6 ***They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, ****
and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 ***The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, ****
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:21-30).*

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your

salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Sequence Hymn: *Called to Labor in God's Vineyard* IN BABILONE (e.g., 495)

1. Called to labor in God's vineyard,
   Eager to accept the task,
   Using every skill and talent,
   Doing all that God would ask.
   May we give ourselves completely
   To the work that is at hand,
   Offering our willing service
   As the stewards of the land.

2. Called to labor in God's vineyard,
   Not alone, but joined as one,
   Sharing common goals and values,
   Striving till the task is done.
   May we work with one another
   In a just and honest way,
   Whether hired at dawn or sunset,
   Not expecting greater pay.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (20:1-16).*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Sequence Hymn: *Called to Labor in God's Vineyard (v. 3)*

3. Called to labor in God's vineyard, help us, Lord, in all we do.
As the vines are heavy laden, send more workers called by you.
May our work bear fruit eternal And our fervor never cease,
Till at last, the harvest gathered, we may rest and know your peace.

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* *Form Three*

Lay Leader: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Holy One.

Father, we pray for your Holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Remembering Sean our Presiding Bishop; Julia, Ian and Mary our Bishops; Walter our priest, we pray all for bishops, priests and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Remembering Donald our President and Maura our Governor,
we pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Remembering especially Emily Graves Autori, Joanne Felci, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Matt, Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, and Malcolm Silva; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief, illness or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering Brian L. Robert, and Margaret Kurz, Roseanna Rainge, and William & Edith Maude Draper; give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Priest: O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour. ***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: *Lord of all Hopefulness* Hymnal #**482**

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 power, the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day, and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer B

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 you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your

Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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: *Rise up, ye Saints of God* Hymnal #**551**

1. Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with lesser things,
   give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
2. Rise up, ye saints of God! His kingdom tarries long:
   Lord, bring in the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.
3. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod;
   and quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, ye saints of God.

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

Oct	3	Sat	Blessing of the Animals (Winthrop), 5:30pm
Oct	4	Sun	Blessing of the Animals, (Saugus) church lawn, 3pm
Oct	10	Sat	Roast Beef Dinner
Oct	14	Wed	Vestry, Hurl Room, 6-8pm
Oct	18	Sun	Baptism
Oct	25	Sun	Joint Visitation with Bishop 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:

Blessing of the Animals, October 4th: We will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi and our beloved finned and fuzzy family members at 3pm on the front lawn (*weather permitting*) with a blessing. Appropriate pet carriers and dog leashes are necessary – thank you.

Roast Beef Dinner, Saturday, Oct. 10th: Please RSVP for seats or to-go dinners by Sept. 30th. 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: 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.

Prayer List

Emily Graves Autori, Joanne Felci, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Matt,
Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, and Malcolm Silva

Participants in this Service:

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