

Calendar

Sunday August 16 (12 Pentecost) Sundae Sunday!	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) Green Team
Monday August 17 (Feria)	6:30 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday August 18 (Feria)		
Wednesday August 19 (Feria)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday August 20 (Bernard of Clairvaux, Tr.)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday August 21 (Feria)		
Saturday August 22 (Feria)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday August 23 (13 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) DOK

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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This Week at St. John's

August 16, 2026

About the Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Today's reading continues many earlier themes, but with a change of focus. The terms "justice" and "right," previously applied to God's acts of deliverance, are here meant to be human qualities. In looking to the messianic age, Isaiah encourages those formerly regarded as hopelessly outside the covenant bond. Eunuchs were regarded as unclean, for they were maimed and therefore were excluded from the temple worship. Foreigners were also excluded. Isaiah here maintains the inclusiveness of previous chapters. Since God's "house" is intended to be open for "all peoples," no outcast should be downcast. Entrance into the covenant community will no longer be a matter of physical birth, ritual cleanness, or national identity, but rather a matter of individual choice and fidelity.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Paul has been wrestling with the problem of the rejection of Jesus by those whose whole history and relationship with God was a preparation for the Messiah. On the surface this looked like a frustration of God's purpose, but Paul establishes God's sovereignty in the working out of salvation history. Israel, not God, is responsible for its own rejection of the gospel, for Israel has failed to understand the meaning of its own tradition. Paul sees Israel's history as fulfilled in Christ, but Israel has insisted on righteousness by works. Nonetheless God has foreseen and provided for this, too. Israel's failure is partial, for a remnant has believed; and it is temporary, for it is not irremediable. Because of the Jews' resistance, the gospel has been taken to the Gentiles, but this mission's success will lead to the Jews' restoration. For both Jews and Gentiles, "disobedience" will be seen to have been a stage on the way to faith.

Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28

The optional first part of this reading follows a confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees and scribes over purity practices. Jesus discusses dietary laws of the inherited tradition and what constitutes true defilement. Jesus concludes this teaching with a vice list, a common technique for moral teaching in the ancient world. But the vices he lists are not only appropriate for a Jewish audience but a Gentile one as well. This way, his teaching sets the stage for the story that follows: Jesus' encounter with a Canaanite woman foreshadows the offer of salvation beyond Israel to the Gentiles. The center of interest is not the miracle but Jesus' attitude toward Gentiles. Matthew emphasizes for his Jewish Christian audience that God has been faithful to Israel but that Gentile faith cannot be denied. The incident exemplifies the form of argument that was common in Jesus' day. The argument was carried on by citing proverbs. The person who cited the best proverb was recognized as the winner. In Matthew's gospel, the focus of Jesus' mission has 'til now been only to Israel. So when this woman comes and kneels before him requesting help for her daughter, he first refuses her request by appealing to the commonsense wisdom of a proverb. The woman's quick-witted reply exemplifies the kind of verbal acumen admired in the Middle East. She is not satisfied with his reply and responds with another proverb, reinforcing her request by citing a different proverb that re-frames the whole situation. Jesus, realizing that in this argument her proverb outdoes his, recognizes her triumph by acclaiming her faith and healing her daughter as she had requested.

(Commentaries from *Preparing for Sunday*)

Announcements

Welcome! We are glad to have you here to worship with us at St. John's today or with us online.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God from the general fund.

Outreach Ministry Group: Join us **today**, for Sundae Sunday! The Outreach Ministry Group will provide ice cream, cookies, root beer and a variety of toppings for coffee hour. There will be ice cream treats after the Saturday 4:00 service. We thank you for your generous support for our outreach projects.

SAVE THE DATE: The Chili Cook-Off and gift basket auction will be held October 18. The event will benefit Ambassadors for Children, the local organization that supports foster children.

Flowers for the Altar: Just a reminder that the Altar Flowers sign-up sheet with instructions is posted on the bulletin board outside the parish hall. What a great way to brighten our services and honor or memorialize loved ones and special occasions. Many spaces are available. Sign up today!

Summer Storytime on the Lawn: Lindsey Parks is hosting her popular "Storytimes" here at St. John's. The next session will be Saturday, August 22, 10:30-11a.m., reading *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Shertle. The session will be canceled only if it is pouring rain or too windy.

Bishop Amy is coming to visit! February 21, our Bishop of West Missouri, The Right Reverend Amy Dafler Meaux will be at St. John's. Please speak with Fr. Ben if you wish to be Baptized, Confirmed, Received or to Reaffirm your vows when Bishop Amy is here at St. John's during her visit.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church in Wales.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace Episcopal Church, Carthage; The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Rector; The Rev. Collin Larimore, Associate Rector; The Rev. Canon Jose Palma, Associate Priest; The Rev. Jory Mertens, Deacon; and for the Board of Examining Chaplains.

Birthdays

August 16 Patricia Lathrom
August 17 Richard Ollis
August 18 Tracy Fay
Gordon Patterson
August 20 Shirley Van Hook

Faithful Departed

August 13 Gordon Webb
August 15 Gil Morgan
Nancy Richardson
August 18 Earle Rice
August 19 Norman Jones
August 21 Lewis David Caudle
Nancy James

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Dean
Nikki	Jim
Clara	Todd & Jennifer
Jim	Cara
Jessica	Darlene
Katy	Charlie
Elaine	Penny
Darrel	David
Jerry	Nate
Pat	Katie
Ann	Rosea
Tyler	Jim & Mary
Tony	
Nick	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

In the Gospel which speaks of the pleas of the Canaanite woman (the Canaanites and Israelites did not enjoy amicable relationships), Jesus reminded the Disciples that he had been sent to seek the "lost." How reassuring to know that he still to this day seeks the "lost" among us, and that if we continue to have faith as the woman did, God has promised to guide and support our lives!