

Word.

St. John's Episcopal Church
July 21, 2024

Welcome

We are sincerely happy you are with us this morning. We are blessed to sing, pray, listen, and share bread and wine together at Communion. To deepen our connections, please come share a cup of coffee and a bite to eat after the service.

The Festival Scrolls

Today is the fourth of a five-week Sunday series on the Festival Scrolls.

The Five Scrolls, or *Megillot* in Hebrew, are five books of the Bible that are central to Jewish holiday liturgies: Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther.

Only rarely are they preached or taught—or even read—in most of our churches. By recovering and studying them, our understanding of Scripture can be made richer and deeper. And learning more about the Jewish calendar connects to a culture that has shaped our practices and the story of our Testament. The practice of listening with an open heart and mind to voices that aren't the loudest in the crowd can help us to broaden our understanding and deepen our faith.

This study lifts up some of those voices and invites us to open our ears and minds and hearts. As we dwell in these texts consider how you can practice listening to what these texts—and other people—have to say, rather than imposing your own ideas onto them. Which marginalized voices in your life and in Scripture could you pay more attention to in the coming days?

How to read the Bible

Wouldn't you like to know some basics? But not as basic, say, as children's stories.

No, the Bible is not a children's book, and its images are often not meant for a Little Golden Book version. Scripture is often brought to life best by the artists of the world, who were often employed by patrons of the church.

Please join us for a series of discussions about how to read scripture and understand its use of plot, character, setting and patterns while also learning a little about art history and the interplay between the Bible, the church and artists. We begin at 4:00 today and on Sunday, July 28 in the air-conditioned sanctuary. All are welcome.

Ministers

Altar Guild	Laura Greathouse
Sound	Oscar Trevino
Liturgy Greeter	Kathy Riley
Hospitality Greeter	Mary Dillivan
Worship Leader	Steve Nickles
Reader	Mark Smith
Preacher	Tim Glatzer
Intercessor	Jessica Smith
Presider	Megan Nickles
Communion Server	Debora Smith
Communion Server	Diana Anderson
Communion Bread	Diana Anderson

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Anglican Church in Japan
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;
St. John's, Jackson; Chapel of the Transfiguration

Andre & Syd; Bob & Charlotte; Kenny & Michael; Richard & Jennifer; Nelson & Nancy; Carolyn & Family; Lee & Kelly; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike; Hugh B. & Marge; Tim & Alex; Margie & Josey; Tim & Lynnae; Bobbi & Bentley	Mary, Tuti Rosita, Marlynn, Martha, Douglas, Mickey, Mike G., Cynthia, Carra, Don, Rob R., Kathy E., Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Alan, Sue, Kahli, Ron and Jane Bennett, Daryn, Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce who are serving in the military.
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Celebrations

Birthday: Bob Grover—22nd; Nicholas Urbach—25th
Anniversary: Megan & Cameron Barker—21st

Prelude

“I Love to Tell the Story,” Michael Lusk.

Hymn

1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing
2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm of the
3. You are called to set the ta - ble, bless - ing
4. May the One whose love is broad - er than the
words of life a - long, then to
dance that nev - er ends, then to
bread as Je - sus blessed, then to
mea - sure of all space give us
blend your voice with oth - ers as you
move with - in the cir - cle, hand in
come with thirst and hun - ger, need - ing
words to sing the sto - ry, move a -
sing the sa - cred song. Christ be
hand with strang - ers, friends. Christ be
care like all the rest. Christ be
mong us in this place. Christ be
known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing
known in all our danc - ing, touch - ing
known in all our shar - ing, feed - ing
known in all our liv - ing, fill - ing
all with songs of love.
all with hands of love.
all with signs of love.
all with gifts of love.

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Gathering

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,
through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words will not pass away.

**So shall God's word be that goes out; it shall not return empty,
but it shall do the work assigned, and shall succeed in its task.**

Confession

The word of God is living and active.

It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Your word convicts us: all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Your word commands us: repent, and believe the Good News.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your word assures us: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Blessed God, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that
we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which
you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Scripture

We sit.

After the reading

The Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers

As God's people, called to love one another, sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything, let us bring the needs of the church, the whole human family and all the world to God's loving care, saying

Hear us, Lord. **Our hearts are wide open to you.**

The Intercessor continues, closing with the following

Great Teacher, as surely as the sun shines in the sky and the rivers flow to the sea, you are here among us—vibrant, pulsating, and holy. Hear our prayers that we offer. May we tend to each other as your love and mercy guides us. May we be brought to new life through the mystery of your healing grace. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

Peace

We stand.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of God.

Announcements

Offertory

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Music

"In Times of Trouble," The Porter's Gate.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

Storytelling God you made a universe in which to bring forth the earth, and an earth in which to raise up a people, and a people in which to come among us in your Son, that we may know your purpose never to be, except to be with us in him forever.

Through patriarchs and prophets, through women of courage and kings, through the redemption of failure and the transformation of faithlessness you embodied your relentless will to abide with us.

In the death and resurrection of your Son and the sending of your Spirit you turned your covenant with your people into an invitation to all the world.

And so we thank and praise you, with angels and archangels, singing your song of glory.

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.

Inscribing God, in Jesus your Word was made flesh.
In your scriptures that flesh was made word.
In your church and your kingdom that word is made flesh again.
By the power of your Holy Spirit bring your scriptural promises to fulfillment in your people gathered in your name today. You give us your scriptures for reaching for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, and building us up in service to you and your world. Open your children's hearts each time your church opens your Word of life.

We have read and know that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends saying take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Whenever you do this, remember me.

We have read and know that Jesus also took the cup of wine. He gave thanks, and said drink this, all of you. This is my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you do this, remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Spirit of Word and deed, sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit upon us, evangelists, teachers, preachers, and healers. Make us, your Son's disciples, feel our hearts burning within us as you speak with us and we find our story in your story.

Breading Bread

The Leader breaks the bread. A silence is kept.

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

With thanksgiving we eat and drink; with joy we remember,

And with Christ's inclusive love we come to the table.

Communion

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first. Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving the bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

Music

“In Christ Alone,” Keith and Kristyn Getty, feat. Alison Krauss.

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” Isabella Theodora

Prayer of Gratitude

We stand.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

**How fragrant the wine of forgiveness,
more than the blossom of lilacs on the breeze.**

**How satisfying the bread of life,
more than the food at our abundant tables.**

**How sweet are your words to the taste,
sweeter than honey to the mouth.**

**How precious are your commands for our life,
more than the finest gold in our hands.**

**How wonderful is your will for the world,
unending is your love for the nations.**

**Our voices shall sing of your promises
and our lips declare your praise,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Hymn

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love,
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed— great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Sending

Go forth from here to read, study, and live daily the stories in the Bible.

Be nourished by scripture like trees planted beside flowing streams.

Go forth and bear fruit.

We go in the name of Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

“Thy Word, Psalm 119:105-112,” Jason Silver Alattas.