



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

July 19, 2026

Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Welcome to St. Mary's! We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting today, please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offering plate when it is passed to you.

Today is the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. This season in our church year is one of spiritual growth, where in meditating on Jesus' parables, miracles, and challenging teachings, we learn about who our Savior is and to what sort of life he calls us.

Holy Eucharist begins on page 355 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are found in *The Hymnal 1982*, also located in the pew rack in front of you. "S" numbers are found in the front of the hymnal.

Children are welcome in worship! Nursery is available for children younger than 3K. Over the summer, all children will begin church with parents. Children in preschool-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel after the Gospel reading. All children will return to their families at the peace.



The nave supports those with hearing impairments via an audio induction loop. Please set your hearing aid to "T" (Telecoil) setting.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

—"A Prayer of Self-Dedication," *The Book of Common Prayer*, 832

The moments before worship are a special opportunity for silence, for reflection, and to come before God in prayer. “Be still, then, and know that I am God” *Psalm 46:11*

Voluntary – Variations on ‘Deck thyself with joy and gladness’

Johann Crüger

Hymn in Procession 375 – Give praise and glory unto God *Du Lebensbrot Herr Jesu Christ*

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis **S280**

setting – Robert Powell

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 231

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I

did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

**4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?**

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

**10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"**

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 290 – Come, ye thankful people come
(*stanzas 2, 3, & 4*)

St. George's Windsor

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Children in preschool – 3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel

The Sermon The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

The Nicene Creed *(standing)* BCP 358

The Prayers of the People *(standing)* BCP 387

Confession of Sin *(kneeling)* BCP 360

The Peace *(standing)* BCP 360

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

Parish Announcements

All children return to participate in Holy Communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

In addition to the alms basin, St. Mary's offers several ways to give electronically. You may "Text to Give" by texting the keyword 'SMOTH' to 73256. Text giving saves your payment method so you can quickly give the next time. For more information on other methods of giving, please visit www.stmarysoth.org/give/waystogive/

Offertory Anthem – Benedictus (“Sparrow Mass”) setting – W. A. Mozart

Kristie Nix-Moorer, Ingrid Richardson, Clay McCollum, Dewin Tibbs - soloists

Sung in Latin: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

At the Presentation (*sung by all*)

Old 100th

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus – S129

setting – Robert Powell

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Agnus Dei – S163

setting – Robert Powell

Any baptized person may receive Communion. Those who choose not to receive Communion may wish to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing one's arms over one's chest. Gluten free wafers are available by request.

Ushers will be in the center aisles. Movement is from the center aisle to the altar or Communion station to receive the bread and wine. Then return to your pew by way of the side aisle.

Music at Communion

Descant

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. It is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The Soprano part begins with a descant of the first four notes of the hymn. The Alto and Bass parts enter with the main melody. The lyrics are: U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha. A square box with the letter 'A' is placed above the first measure of the Alto part.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

Continued...

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Ubi caritas. Words: Latin, 8th c., tr. Malcolm Naea Chun (b. 1954). Music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994).
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Hymn 482 – Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy (*sung by all*)

Slane

Hymn 505 – O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God (*sung by all*)

O Heiliger Geist

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 344 – Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Sicilian Mariners

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Fanfare

Richard Proulx

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of

Cindy G. Yeilding

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Celebrant

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Deacons

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and Organist*

Assisting in Worship

Meade Whitaker

Chalice Bearers

Jennifer Dewees

Ed Allen

Pam Stone

Lay Readers

Stacy Moon

Ashley Kaplan

Prayers of the People

Vivian Terry

Acolytes

Caty Van Ball

Edmund Ball

Lexie Whatley

Ushers

Edmund Ball, Sr.

Mac Moorer

Greg Ellis

Nate Cartmell

Greeters

Emily Ball

Altar Guild

Melissa Bailey
Emily Rich
Evie Vare

Mary Hubbard
Judi Seitel

St. Mary's Flower Guild

VISITING ST. MARY'S?

Welcome! Please pick up a visitor packet from the table in the narthex. We also encourage you to fill out a Visitor Card (found on the back of the pew in front of you) and drop it in the offering plate. You can also scan the QR code to the right to complete the visitor card online. And please introduce yourself to one of the clergy after the service. Thank you so much for worshipping with us.



St. Mary's Building Access

Please keep the motor court beneath RMH open for drop-offs or for those needing access to the elevator. To reach the worship space without using stairs, enter Drennen House from the motor court or from 12th Avenue and take the elevator to level 3R.

Parking at St. Mary's

Monday-Saturday: Parking is available in four places.

- The motor court.
- The lot below the garden (Take steps to the garden and doors to Parish Office.)
- The lot on 12th Avenue behind Ramsay High School ("St. Mary's West Lot")
- Street parking

Sunday:

- **The motor court is reserved for handicapped parking SUNDAYS ONLY.**
- The small lot at the AT&T building- This lot is available on SUNDAYS ONLY.
- Street Parking on both sides of 12th Avenue

Please note:

- *The lot across 12th Avenue behind Mellow Mushroom is a private lot to which we do not have access. Violators will be towed.*
- *Make sure you have a parking decal on your car to avoid being towed from a St. Mary's lot. These are available in the Parish Office.*

Wheelchairs Available

Wheelchairs are available at the Parish Office reception desk, the entrance to Drennen House, and the connector. Please feel free to use them if needed.

City Action Partnership (CAPS) Service Available

CAPS is in the 5 Points South neighborhood. They are available to assist with dead batteries, locked cars, and the unhoused. Please feel free to call them for assistance or to report a concern: 205-251-0111.



PARISH EVENTS

*Scan this code for quick, easy access to our website's
EVENTS PAGE to view all event details, registration info, and links.*

House of David

Thursdays through August 13

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM / Living Room

All are welcome! We will watch the first season of the Prime Video Series *House of David*, which depicts the rise of David, tracing his journey from his time as a shepherd to his eventual kingship with the House of David. A group discussion will follow each episode.

Built for a Purpose

Saturday, August 15 / 9:00 AM-4:00 PM / Swan Lake Stables

Built for a Purpose is a fun day for **3rd-8th grade boys** to create, sing, be silly, and learn about Jesus. Using tools, playing games, and learning new skills are all part of the day. **Men and Senior High boys are needed to lead building projects, games, cooking, worship, and Bible teaching.** Cost for campers is \$60. **Registration is now open for campers and volunteers.** Scan the QR code above to visit the Events page on our website. Questions? Contact Katie Dewees at katie@stmarysoth.org or 205-881-0704.

Glen Iris Elementary Christmas!

It's CHRISTMAS in July! We're collecting funds for the Glen Iris Bag Packing project in December to provide meals for their students and families. Packing for 800+ students costs about \$5500, covering food, bags, and delivery. Every donation helps these children. **Please donate this summer by scanning the QR code to the right or by sending a check to Rhea Pelekis at the Parish Office.**



(Be sure to put "Glen Iris Christmas" in the memo line.) *AND: Save the date of Saturday, December 12, to help pack bags. Thanks for your support!*

Cleaning Out? Community Furniture Bank can help!

Community Furniture Bank needs your gently used furniture, household items (sheets, towels, art, decorative items, etc.), and appliances to distribute to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness or facing financial hardship. If you are cleaning out this summer, please consider donating your items to Community Furniture Bank; they will even pick up your items! **For more details or to schedule a pickup, call 205-942-2727 or visit www.communityfurniturebank.org.** *We kindly ask that you DO NOT bring donations to St. Mary's. Thank you for your understanding!*

Save These Dates for August!

- **Sunday, August 9:** Our annual **Back to School Blessing** at our 10:30 AM service
 - **Sunday, August 16: ST. MARY'S DAY!** Special music at our 10:30 service honors our patron saint, Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, plus a parish potluck luncheon (we'll provide the fried chicken!). Watch these announcements and the August newsletter for details!
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ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Summer Sunday Worship Services

All services listed below begin at 10:30 AM.

- **NEXT SUNDAY, July 26:** Guest preacher at our 10:30 AM service: the diocese's new Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Katie Pearson
- **August 2:** Instructed Eucharist (learn some background on what we do in the liturgy)

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays / 8:40 AM / Church

All are welcome to join us for this lay-led daily office. Enter Drennen House via the motor court door and take the elevator to Level 3R.

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays / 11:30 AM / Chapel

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian form of silent prayer that is ideal for both corporate and private worship. Our group meets in-person and via Zoom. For Zoom: meeting ID is 3891069314; password is Prayer.

Opportunities to Serve

- **Highlands United Methodist Church Breakfast Ministry** St. Mary's provides volunteers on **Thursdays, 8:30-10:00 AM**. Questions? Contact Monica Sargent (205-913-4689 or monica@stmarysoth.org). To volunteer, please visit www.stmarysoth.org/outreach.

Pastoral Care Ministries

- **The "Loving Well" Support Group for Caregivers is taking a summer break. Home Communion:** If you or someone you know is unable to worship in person and would like to receive a home communion visit, please get in touch with The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org or 205-881-1532.
 - **Hospital Visits:** If you would like to specifically request a visit from the clergy or Pastoral Care Team member, please contact Kaki O'Flinn.
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PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

You may email prayer requests to cissy@stmarysoth.org or call (205) 933-1140.

In an effort to stay current, names will be kept on the list for a month after the date given. If you wish to continue beyond that, please contact us.

For those who await the birth or adoption of a child:

Charles and Olivia Lewis, Brittney and Kellen Watkins

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Margaret, Bill, Mike, Jean, Sharon, Debby, Joanne, Chuck, Robin, Bert

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Tunsten, Ashley, Winnie, Ben, Denise, Jeff, Kylie, Linda, Nancy, Teeney, Andy

For those who are grieving:

Family of Rusty Wallace, Family of Jeff Grisham, Family of Bryan Ratliff

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Patty, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Betty, Bart, Natalie, Linda M., Emily

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Alex, Brian, Steven, Daniel, Marjory, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Jonah, Robert, John, Isabelle,
Frank, Emilio, Truitt, Gilbert

ST. MARY'S ON THE HIGHLANDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-933-1140 / www.stmarysoth.org

CLERGY

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner, Rector

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist, Associate Rector

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn/Pastoral Care

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD./Episcopal DIOALA Chaplain to UAB Medical Center

RETIRED CLERGY

The Rev. Grady Richardson

The Rev. Gates Shaw

Retired clergy who worship and occasionally serve at St. Mary's

LAY STAFF

Emily Ball – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Katie Dewees – *Children's Minister*

Melodie Elam – *Director of Communications and
Hospitality Ministries*

Jessica Hall – *Youth and Young Adult Minister*

Cissy Hartz – *Ministries Coordinator*

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and
Organist*

Anne Morgan – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Evan Pezant – *Asst. Youth Minister*

Rhea Pelekis – *Director of Finance*

Monica Sargent – *Outreach Ministries*

Blair Trotter – *Technical Support*

Matt Watson – *Facilities Manager*

Cindy Wiley – *Parish Engagement/Spirituality
Ministries*

VESTRY

Cheryl Brakefield – *Sr. Warden*

George Newton – *Jr. Warden*

Lora Blalock

David Cain

Gordon Martin

Clayton Trotter

Camille Epps

Emily Holmes

Jeanie MacKenzie

Larry Sedar

Brooks Adams

Bert Amason – *Clerk*

Stuart Beale

Kelly Seibels

Elizabeth Wyatt

Bentley Sloan – *Treasurer*

Patrick Toomey – *Asst. Treasurer*

Meade Whitaker – *Legal Counsel*



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