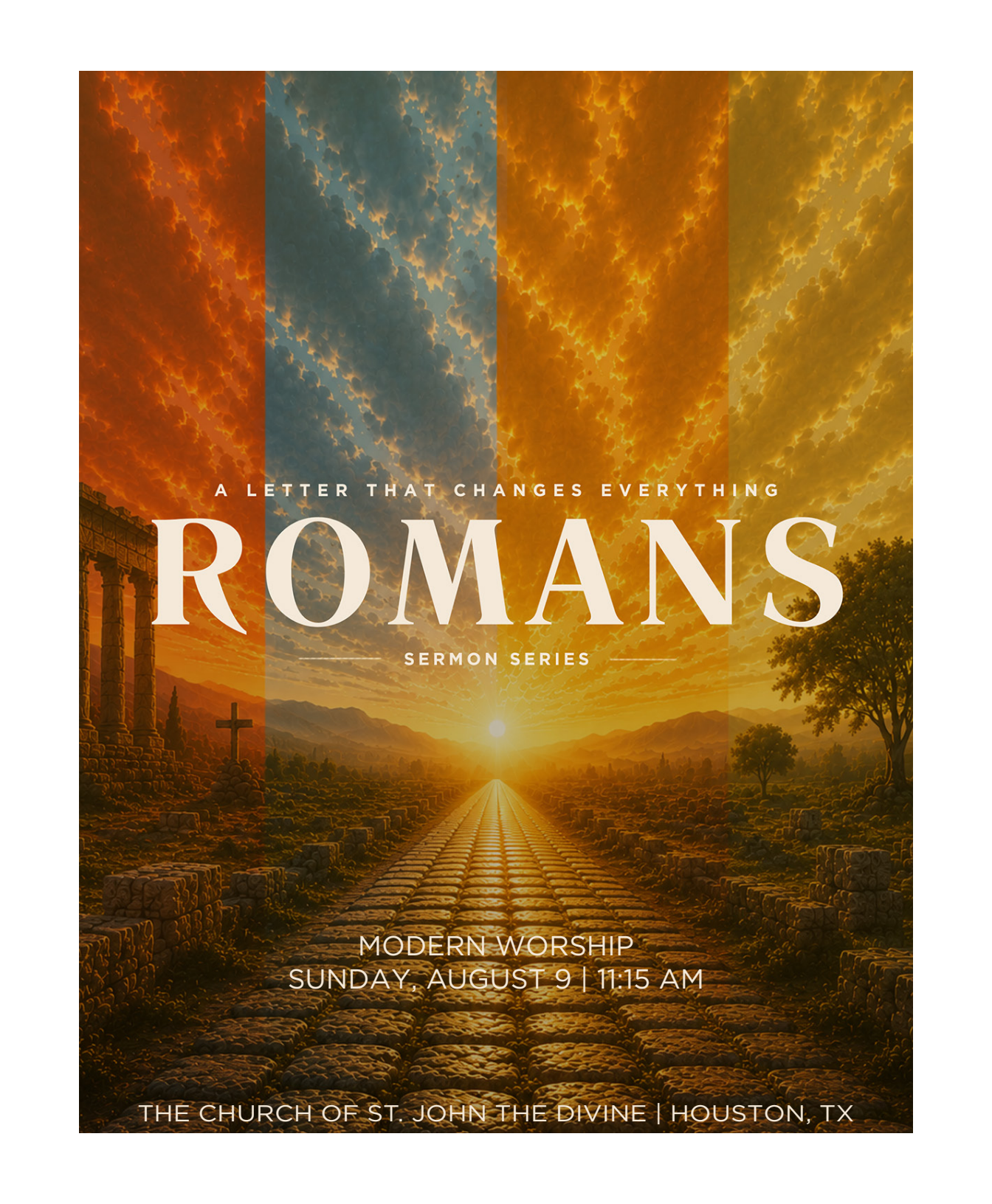




A LETTER THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

ROMANS

SERMON SERIES

MODERN WORSHIP
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 | 11:15 AM

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE | HOUSTON, TX

WELCOME



Welcome to St. John the Divine. We want to get to know you! Take your first step by completing a welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or scan this QR code to introduce yourself online.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Songs and Prayers

Holy Scripture and Sermon

Prayers and Peace

Offerings and Holy Eucharist

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:5-15 (ESV)

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

The Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33 (ESV)

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

[illegible]

HOLY EUCHARIST

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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:

Celebrant and People (said):

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: 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:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: 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 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.

Celebrant and People: AMEN.

- *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
- *If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request from the clergy.*
- *Please be guided by our ushers for Communion.*
- *Prayer Ministers are always present on either side of the stage for personal prayer.*
- *Interested in baptism, have questions about the faith, or want to connect with the clergy?*
Email the Rev. John Sundara at jsundara@sjd.org.

Your financial offerings help us be a light for the city. You may make your Sunday offering in one of two ways:

- *By placing your offering in the plate during the Offertory or*
- *By scanning the QR code with your phone.*



WHO IS ISRAEL IN THE BIBLE?

The people of Israel are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God's chosen people. Throughout the Bible we hear stories of God's faithfulness and their tumultuous relationship with God, as they break His commandments by worshipping other gods and failing to care for the stranger in their midst. By the time Paul writes Romans, God's people have also failed to recognize Jesus as God, crucifying Him instead. To be fair, no one ever expected that God would become human! But when He does, they do not recognize Him. This is why Paul grieves for his Jewish brothers and sisters in our reading today. They are so close to God and yet cannot see who He is in Jesus, how Jesus reveals His love for God's whole world.

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The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*
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Allie LaRue
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Matthew Lewis
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Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST