

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 10, 2026
10:00 AM

WELCOME!

YOU are welcome here, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, family makeup, socioeconomic status, or political persuasion. St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of people who gather to acknowledge our need for divine and human love, and to respect our common humanity. At St. John's, ALL ARE WELCOME.

It is our pleasure to have you join us for worship today. If this is your first visit, or even if you've been attending for a little while, and you'd like to learn more about us, please take a 'Welcome' card from our pews, complete and place the 'Connect' side in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters or clergy so that we may follow up with you. Or, feel welcome to contact us using the information on the back of this bulletin.



Remain in My Love

Church of St. Catherine of Siena, New York, NY
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

Our mission

LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Our vision

*WE JOYFULLY GATHER TO PRAY, WORSHIP, LEARN AND SERVE
AS WE SEEK TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND INVITE ALL TO JOIN US
ON A SACRED JOURNEY OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION*

Following the pattern of THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER – RITE II

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

All are invited to stand, as able

Hymn - "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"

#423 in **The Hymnal 1982***

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877);
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are invited to be seated

First Lesson - Acts 17:22-31

Deb Blackhurst

Reader A reading from Acts.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18 - *Jubilate Deo*

The Portland Psalter*

Cantor will invite the congregation to join in on the refrain.



From *The Portland Psalter* © 2002, Robert A. Hawthorne. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
 10 You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a
 place of refreshment.
 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
 and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips and spoke
 with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
 with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.
 16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
 the Lord would not have heard me;
 17 But in truth God has heard me; *
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my
 prayer, *
 nor withheld his love from me.

Second Lesson - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Basil Clark

Reader A reading from 1 Peter

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All are invited to stand, as able, for the Gospel Procession

Gospel Acclamation

Cantor will invite the congregation to join in on the refrain.

The image shows a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Cantor Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord;
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: John 14:23

Music: Alleluia 11, Taizé community

Gospel Reading - John 14:15-21

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See previous page . . .

Sermon

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

All are invited to stand, as able, and say together

Nicene Creed

p. 326 in **The BCP**

**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 III

p. 387 in The BCP

Leader Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
People That we all may be one.

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

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

Leader Remembering especially Cathy & Juan, Char, Ronnie, Henry, Chris, Yvonne,
Charlene, Phillip, Julie, Dennis, Mike, Steve, Vicki, Duane, Linda & Dan,
Wendy Thompson & the family of Bronda Smeltzer, Shelby, and Eric, have
compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest.
People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Announcements

Prayer for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Other Milestones

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Acknowledging and Honoring Our Graduates

Collect for Mother's Day

Offertory Anthem - "If Ye Love Me"
Chancel Choir

Philip Wilby

Eucharistic Prayer D

p. 372 in **The BCP**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus

#255 in **Lift Every Voice and Sing***

Ho-ly, ho - ly, _____ ho-ly,
ho - ly _____ ho-ly, Lord God _____ of hosts. _____ Heav-en and

Continued on next page . . . 7

earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

All are invited to stand or kneel, as able

Celebrant We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to

you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Together **We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Celebrant Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with John and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364 in **The BCP**

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together

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 Anthem

p. 364 in **The BCP**

Celebrant

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. These are holy gifts for holy people.

All are invited to be seated

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. St. John's uses gluten-free bread, and wine. You may eat your bread/wafer and return to your seat, or hand it to a chalice-bearer who will intinct (dip) the bread and hand it back to you. Individually sealed cups with gluten-free, allergen-friendly hosts, and grape juice are available by request. Please follow the directions of our ushers.

A Prayer in lieu of Sacramental Reception attributed to *The Rev. Charles Curtis*

Those worshipping with us on our live stream are invited to use the following prayer as our in-person congregation receives Communion.

O blessed Jesus, our Savior and Lord, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of your body and Blood. We love you above all things, and we long for you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you in your sacramental Presence, grant that we

may still be fed by your Holy Spirit in our hearts. We welcome you and embrace you, and unite ourselves wholly to you; and grant, most gracious Lord, that we may evermore dwell in you, and you in us. Amen.

Communion Hymn - "Breathe on me, Breath of God"

#393 in The Celebration Hymnal*

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I ne - ver die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
 Un - til with Thee I will Thy will, To do and to en - dure.
 Till all this earth - ly part of me glows with Thy fire di - vine.
 But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889
 Tune: Robert Jackson, 1840-1914

66 86
 TRENTHAM
www.hymnary.org/text/breathe_on_me_breath_of_god

Post-Communion Prayer

p. 365 in The BCP

Celebrant Let us pray.
Together **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

The priest blesses the people
People **Amen.**

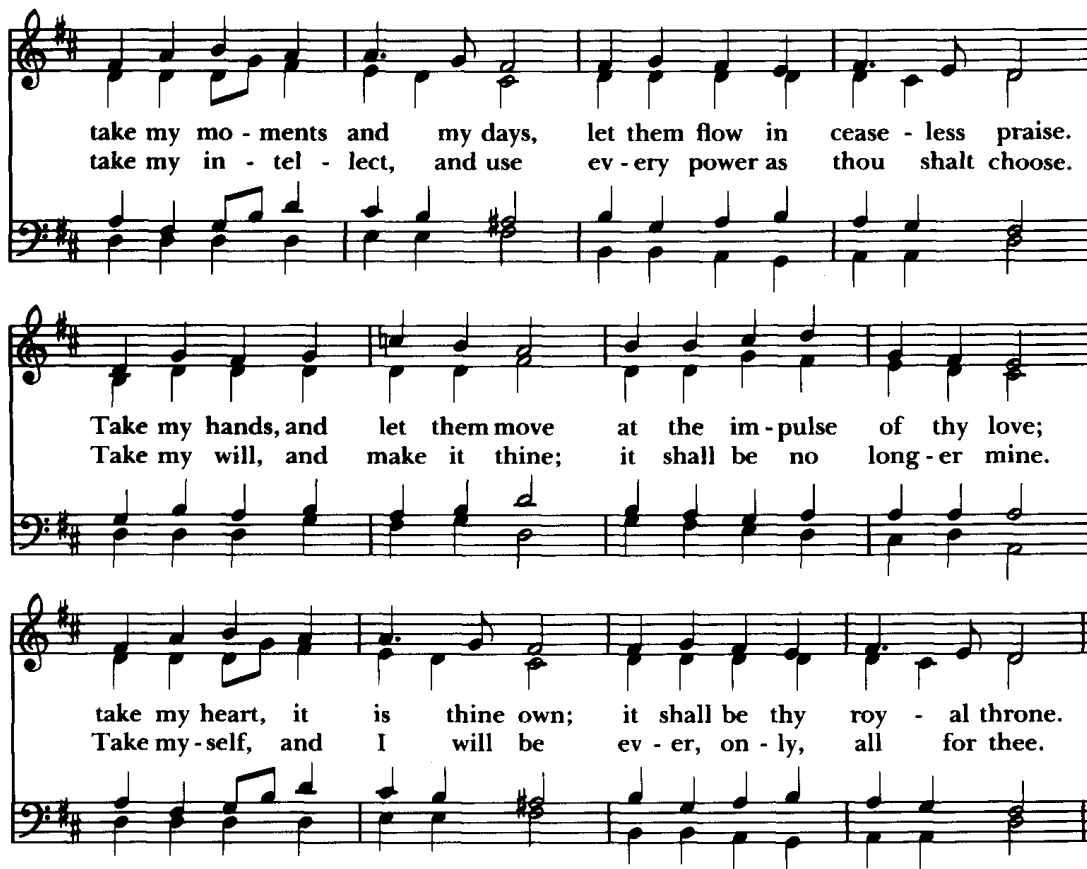
All are invited to stand, as able

Closing Hymn - "Take my life, and let it be"

#707 in The Hymnal 1982

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

Continued on next page . . .



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt.
Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

77. 77. D

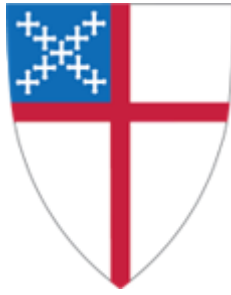
Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

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*The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for our St. John's family.*



HEAD OF THE CHURCH – JESUS CHRIST
MINISTERS – ALL OUR MEMBERS

Clergy

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson*Rector*

Staff

Dr. Amon Eady *Director of Music*

Travis Fader *Director of Operations & Organist/Pianist*

Linda Germain.....*Children & Youth Director*

Colleen O'Dell*Bookkeeper*

Ellen Woodard..... *Administrative Assistant*

Nick Lowthian.....*Sexton*

Vickie Densmore*Janitor*

SERVING

Presiding The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson
Preaching..... The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson
Cantor..... Amon Eady
Organist/Pianist Travis Fader
Greeter/Usher..... HJ Smith, Lee Smith
Element Bearers.. Mike Spencer, Michelle Spencer
Lectors..... Deb Blackhurst, Basil Clark
Intercessor..... Charles Bash
Crucifer/Eucharistic Minister..... Ellen McVey
Eucharistic Minister Marnie Bash
Altar Guild HJ Smith, Andrea Burditt
Broadcast Technician Bill Kent
Coffee Hour Host
(signup sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Williams Hall)

OUR VESTRY – OUR ELECTED LEADERS

Class of 2027

Eric Heglin, *Clerk*
Susan Rye
Fred Schuster, *Co-Warden*

Class of 2029

Nykkoo Lurie
Mike Spencer

Class of 2028

John Adams
Doug Germain
Ann Wright, *Co-Warden*

To get in touch with any Clergy, Staff Member or Member of the Vestry,
call or email the parish office:

(989) 631-2260

office@sjec-midland.org

Contact Us

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