

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 9

JULY 5, 2026

8:00 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.

Our mission

LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST



**Memorial to the Persecuted –
Bearing a Heavy Weight Together**

Gáspár, Péter

from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

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 (EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE)

THE WORD OF GOD

All are invited to stand, as able

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
 People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

All are invited to read in unison

Gloria

p. 356 in The BCP

**Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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

The Lessons

First Lesson - Zechariah 9:9-12

Kevin Maksym

Reader A reading from Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

All are invited to read in unison

Psalm 145:8-15 - Exaltabo te, Deus

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.**

**10 All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.**

**11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;**

**12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

**13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

**14 The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.**

**15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Second Lesson - Romans 7:15-25a

Kevin Maksym

Reader A reading from Romans

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Reader The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are invited to be seated

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

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

The Nicene Creed

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

The Prayers of the People

Kevin Maksym

Leader In this green, growing season of summer, let us embrace the abundance of creation as we pray for the Church and for the world.

Gracious God, we pray for your Church, that it may be a refuge of peace and renewal. We pray for the people and leaders of the Diocese of the Great Lakes, and we pray especially for our bishop search committee and for the one who will be called as our first bishop. May all who confess the name of Jesus be united in the truth of love and grow communities of care. God our loving Creator,

People You hear our prayers.

Leader Guide the leaders of this and every land, that they may govern your creation with justice and integrity. Inspire them to decisions, statements, and actions that cultivate wellbeing; and help them to grow peace in your world. God our sovereign Creator,

People You hear our prayers.

Leader We give thanks for the earth and for the abundance of summer: for the warmth of the sun, the lush beauty of plants, and the company of animals. Keep us mindful of our place in this family, and help us to cherish these gifts as we care for the earth, our home. God our wondrous Creator,

People You hear our prayers.

Leader Bless all whose lives are linked with ours, and grant that we may see the face of Christ in all God's children, loving one another as we are loved. Help us form and grow places of sanctuary and revival in our hearts, our homes,

our church, and our town, and show us your will in our communities. God our inspiring Creator,

People

You hear our prayers.

Leader

Pour out your comfort and healing on all those who are sick, sad, suffering, or imprisoned. We pray for Cathy & Juan, Char, Henry, Chris, Yvonne, Charlene, Julie, Vicki, Shelby, Eric, Dave, Bob, Guy, Tony, Tellie, EllaRose, Jayden & Elaine, Betty & Bud Schartow & family, Justin & family, and Tom; for those living and dying in the turmoil of war, violence, and hate; for those affected by environmental disasters; and for all those we name, silently or aloud. *[The people are invited to offer their own prayers.]* Sustain them with courage and hope, and bring us all into your abundant joy. God our healing Creator,

People

You hear our prayers.

Leader

We entrust to your loving presence all who have died and those we name, silently or aloud. *[The people are invited to offer their own prayers.]* We pray that when our work on earth is done, we too may feast in the company of all your saints and know your everlasting abundance. God our eternal Creator,

People:

You hear our prayers.

Celebrant

Creating and cultivating God, you have charged us to care for your whole creation; hear our prayers and help us grow as faithful stewards, that we might seeing the world through your eyes, love it with your heart, and be your hands and feet bringing blessing; through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Together

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

Offertory

All are invited to stand, as able

Together All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All are invited to stand as able

Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361 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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

**Together 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.

All are invited to stand or kneel, as able

Celebrant Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Together **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Together **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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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.

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Together Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The priest blesses the people

People Amen.

All are invited to stand, as able

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

People Thanks be to God.

*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

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
Greeter/Usher.....Jim Bakeman
Lector..... Kevin Maksym
Intercessor..... Kevin Maksym
Eucharistic Minister Kevin Maksym
Altar GuildJacques Randolet, Andrea Burditt
Coffee Hour Host
(signup sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Williams Hall)

OUR VESTRY – OUR ELECTED LEADERS

Class of 2027

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

Class of 2029

Nykkoa 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

St. John's Episcopal Church

405 N. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640

Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday ... 9am-3pm
Friday ... 9am-noon

Phone: 989.631.2260

Fax: 989.631.4261

Parish email: office@sjec-midland.org

Website: www.sjec-midland.org

Facebook: sjecmidland

Instagram: sjecmidlandmich

YouTube: @st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid894