



9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 12

JULY 26, 2026

WELCOME!

8:00 AM

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



Parable of the Mustard Seed

Anonymous

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong,
 nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as
 our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose
 not the things eternal; 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 - 1 Kings 3:5-12

Alicia Watt

Reader A reading from 1 Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

All are invited to read in unison

Psalm 119:129-136 - Mirabilia

129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
 therefore I obey them with all my heart.
130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
 it gives understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant; *
 I long for your commandments.
132 Turn to me in mercy, *
 as you always do to those who love your Name.
133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
 let no iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
 and I will keep your commandments.
135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
 and teach me your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
 because people do not keep your law.

Second Lesson - Romans 8:26-39

Alicia Watt

Reader A reading from Romans

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large

family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor he

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 13:31-33, 44-52

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 put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Alicia Watt

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, Bob, Betty & Bud Schartow & family, Justin & family, Tom, and Ed; 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 see 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

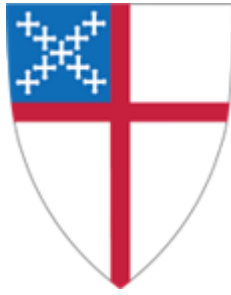
People Amen.

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 celebration of Aaron Koonce's 23rd birthday by Will & Denée Koonce.*



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..... Alicia Watt
Intercessor..... Alicia Watt
Eucharistic Minister Alicia Watt
Altar GuildHJ Smith, 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

Nykkooa 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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