



15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 18

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

WELCOME!

10:00 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



Changed by Community

Anna Strickland

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)

Prelude

Welcome

THE WORD OF GOD

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 stand, as able

Opening Hymn - "God is Love, let heaven adore him"

#379 in **The Hymnal 1982***

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's c - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, c - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are invited to be seated

The Lessons

First Lesson - Ezekiel 33:7-11

Ann Wright

Reader A reading from Ezekiel.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40 - *Legem pone*

All are invited to read responsively by verse

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

**36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.**

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

**38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

**40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Second Lesson - Romans 13:8-14

Mike Spencer

Reader A reading from Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 Acclamation

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



Music: Celtic Mass; Fintan O'Carroll, d. 1977, and Christopher Walker.

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Verse: "Where two or three are gathered, together in my name,
I am there among them,
says the Lord."

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:15-20

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, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Reader The Gospel of our Savior.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See previous page . . .

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.**

Prayers of the People

Pat Roush

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 candidates and for the person 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, Julie, Vicki, Bob, Daina, Gordon, Mary Jo, and John; 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.

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.

Offertory Anthem - "It Is Well With My Soul"

Zoe Whitlock, Soprano

arr. Brenda Crofts Reep

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All are invited to stand as able

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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:

Sanctus

#S 124 in The Hymnal 1982*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

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."

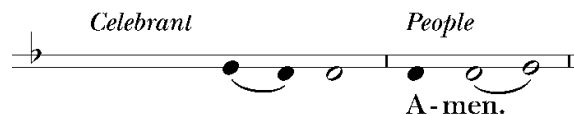
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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.



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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.

Fraction Anthem

#S 154 in **The Hymnal 1982***

(Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

(Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

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 - "Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray"

#315 in **The Hymnal 1982***

Unison or harmony

1 Thou, who at thy first Eu - cha - rist didst pray

2 For all thy Church, O Lord, we in - ter - cede;

3 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease,

Continued on next page . . .

that all thy Church might be for ev - er one,
make thou our sad di - vi - sions soon to cease;
may we be one with all thy Church a - bove,

grant us at ev - ery Eu - cha - rist to say
draw us the near - er each to each, we plead,
one with thy saints in one un - bro - ken peace,

with long - ing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
by draw - ing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
one with thy saints in one un - bound - ed love;

O may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
thus may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
more bless - ed still, in peace and love to be

through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
one with the Trin - i - ty in U - ni - ty.

Words: William Harry Turton (1856-1938)

Music: *Song I*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625);

harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

10 10. 10 10. 10 10

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

Closing Hymn - "Lord, make us servants of your peace"

#593 in **The Hymnal 1982***

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with five parts (1-5) and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on prayer att. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)
Music: Dickinson College, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979)

LM

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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

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.....Zoe Whitlock
Organist/PianistLeon Beaudin
Greeter/Usher..... Jacques Randolet
Element Bearer..... Mike & Michelle Spencer
Lectors..... Ann Wright, Mike Spencer
Intercessor..... Pat Roush
Crucifer/Eucharistic Minister.....Ellen McVey
Eucharistic MinisterEric Heglin
Altar GuildJacques Randolet, Andrea Burditt
Broadcast TechnicianBill Kent
Coffee Hour HostRobbyn Prange & Carol Sullivan
(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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Instagram: sjecmidlandmich

YouTube: @st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid894