

**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 21**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 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.*

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***Our mission***

*LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST*



**Parable of the Two Sons**

Mironov, Andrei (Andrei Nikolaevich), 1975-  
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

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***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*

**THE WORD OF GOD***All are invited to stand, as able***Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 People **And blessed be his kingdom, 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 The Lord be with you.  
 People **And also with you.**  
 Celebrant Let us pray.  
 O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
 Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises,  
 may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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** - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Kevin Maksym

Reader A reading from Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
People            **Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to read in unison*

**Psalm 25:1-8 - Ad te, Domine, levavi**

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

## Second Lesson - Philippians 2:1-13

Kevin Maksym

Reader        A reading from Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death--  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

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

**Gospel Reading** - Matthew 21:23-32

*The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson*

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

**People        Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they

answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Reader            The Gospel of the Lord.  
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**

p. 358 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.

**Prayer of the People - Form III** (p. 387 in **The BCP**)

*Kevin Maksym*

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leader        | Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That we all may be one.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Leader        | Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Leader        | We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</b>                                                                                                                                                 |
| Leader        | We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That there may be justice and peace on the earth.</b>                                                                                                                                                                |
| Leader        | Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That our works may find favor in your sight.</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Leader        | Remembering especially those on our parish prayer list: Cathy & Juan, Char, Henry, Julie, Vicki, Bob, the family of Ed Patterson, John, Chris, and Arie, have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That they may be delivered from their distress.</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Leader        | Give to the departed eternal rest.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Let light perpetual shine upon them.</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Leader        | We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>People</b> | <b>May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.</b>                                                                                                                                                              |
| Leader        | Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.                                                                                                                                                                      |
|               | <i>[The people are invited to offer their own prayers]</i>                                                                                                                                                              |

**Concluding Collect**

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.**

**Confession of Sin**

p. 359 in **The BCP**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Celebrant       | Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.<br><i>Silence</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Together</b> | <b>Most merciful God,<br/>         we confess that we have sinned against you<br/>         in thought, word, and deed,<br/>         by what we have done,<br/>         and by what we have left undone.<br/>         We have not loved you with our whole heart;<br/>         we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.<br/>         We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.<br/>         For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,</b> |

**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.**

### **Absolution**

Celebrant     Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 the Lord 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, 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:

**Together     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 .**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able*

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:

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

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. **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.

### The Breaking of the Bread

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.

*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

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.**

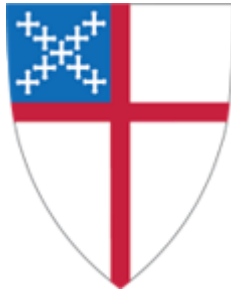
*All are invited to stand, as able*

### Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

**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 Guild ..... Judy Ellis, Andrea Burditt

Coffee Hour Host ..... John & Jan Marcou

(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](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org)

**Contact Us**

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**Facebook:** sjecmidland

**Instagram:** sjecmidlandmich

**YouTube:** @st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid894