



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

Sunday, September 20, 2026

The Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

~ Everyone is WELCOME here, for everyone is beloved by GOD ~

The Season of Creation is an international and ecumenical celebration of the goodness of God's work in nature, as we commit to being better stewards of it. The theme for 2026 is "Living Waters." Today, the first lesson from Ezekiel is a prophecy of disastrous flooding. The prophet foresees the Mediterranean rising and swallowing the city of Tyre, causing all the neighboring rulers to sit down and tremble. Will we respond more creatively to disasters caused by our warming oceans, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels?

Are you new to our church? We'd love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here, no questions asked. We offer homemade Bread and gluten-free Rice Wafers, which may be dipped into the small bowl of wine; or, consume your bread and sip wine from the chalice that follows. Or neither: just cross your arms over your chest. You may also ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books that will be handed out.

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude _____

Opening Hymn #680 _____ *O God, our help in ages past*

Opening Acclamation _____ for the Season

Presider: Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit;

Response: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Presider: Loving God, you created the world as a beautiful garden, and asked us to tend and care for it. Our hearts are fully known to you, and we cannot hide our failings. As we lament and pray for the earth, its creatures, and ourselves, cleanse our thoughts and open our spirit to your Holy Spirit, so that we can bless and praise you without shame or fear; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Song of Praise _____ For Beauty of Meadows



1 For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees, for
2 As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand, as
3 Teach us once a - gain to be gar - d'ners in peace; all



flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas, for
crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand, we
na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease; your



all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share, we
turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life, con -
name we would hal - low in all that we do, ful -



praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
fil - ling our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

Collect of the Day _____

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray, together.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading _____ *Ezekiel 26:15-18*

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD to Tyre: Shall not the coastlands shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, when slaughter goes on within you? Then all the princes of the sea shall step down from their thrones; they shall remove their robes and strip off their embroidered garments. They shall clothe themselves with trembling and shall sit on the ground; they shall tremble every moment and be appalled at you. And they shall raise a lamentation over you and say to you:

“How you have vanished from the seas, O city renowned,
once mighty on the sea, you and your inhabitants,
who imposed your terror on all the mainland!
Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall;
the coastlands by the sea are dismayed at your passing.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalms 93*

- 1 The Lord is King; he has put on splendid apparel; *
the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure *

that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever and for evermore.

The Second Reading _____ *Philippians 1:21-30*

Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well~ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Sequence Hymn #550 _____ *Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult*

The Gospel Reading *Please stand as able* _____ *Matthew 20:1-16*

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ *The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams*

Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *Please stand* _____

**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: Season of Creation _____ *Please stand or kneel*

Deacon In the beginning of Creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters of chaos. The water that God tamed and called “good” is needed by every cell of every living thing. Mindful of the many ways we depend on water, let us pray for the life of the world. *Silence*

Leader

I ask your prayers for all people of faith, and for the transformations in their lives and cultures that are marked by the sacredness of water: at the Red Sea, in the Jordan River, in ritual baths, in the washing of feet and hands, and in Holy Baptism. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the leaders of nations, corporations, and communities around the world, that they may exercise wise stewardship over the waters of their land, so that all people may have clean water to drink, fish and sea creatures may have clean water to swim in, and animals may live free from waterborne diseases. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the wisdom to peacefully solve conflicts over water in the dry places of our planet, and share the use of rivers and underground waters. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all who travel or work at sea or on inland waterways. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers as waters around the world rise because of climate change. For communities affected by flood or tsunami, storm or ice; and for the people and creatures who suffer as glaciers and ice floes melt and shrink. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the creatures people who are endangered, ill, in pain or special need; especially those we name ..., and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources, or from the devastation by war. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all who have died and for all who mourn, that their tears of grief may be turned to wellsprings of joy. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of our world. Show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to conserve or destroy our environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished, and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin, *please stand or kneel* _____

Deacon In order to find healing and peace for the Earth, let us confess the ways we have erred and strayed from God's good intentions.

Silent prayer

All **God of compassion, have mercy upon us.**

Heal our relationship with all creation.

Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,
and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Absolution *is pronounced by the priest* _____

Presider Almighty God, have mercy upon you and forgive you; heal your heart and guide your mind; and enable you to live in peace with all God's creatures, and the Earth our common home. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand* _____

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Milestones and Announcements _____

Stump the priest! _____ *Answering your questions*

The Offertory, *following an invitation to generosity from the priest*

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form.



Offertory Anthem _____ *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

The Doxology *Please stand & join in singing* _____ *"Old 100th"*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Supplemental Eucharistic Prayer, for Creation _____

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Holy Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you, for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus _____ setting by John Bell

Please note that the melody is the top line of text and music.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _____ God of power _____ and

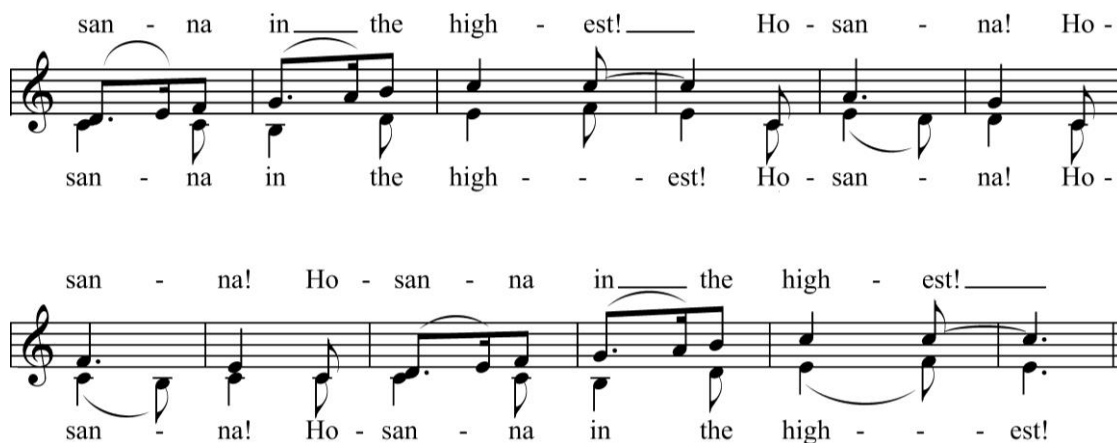
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, God of power and

might, _____ heaven _____ and earth are full, _____ are full

power and might, _____ heaven and earth and full, _____ are full

of _____ your glo - ry. _____ Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho -

of your glo - ry. _____ Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho -



We praise you that in the night he was betrayed, Jesus and his friends gathered for the Passover meal. He took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He also took the cup of wine, and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, heal and empower us to restore your world and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, the sacraments of a community made new in Jesus Christ.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is released from its bondage to sin and sanctified by your love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior taught us, we now pray: _____ Source: Mother Thunder Mission

Holy One, our only Home, hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread, *silence follows* _____

Fraction Anthem _____ setting by John Bell

This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be

whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,

cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Invitation to Communion _____

Deacon These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

The Communion

Please be seated until invited by the Ushers to come forward, or let them know if you would like Communion brought to you in the pew. **All are welcome** but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead. Today we are blessing gluten-free bread. The wine may be sipped from the chalice, or wait to intinct (dip your bread) into the small bowl of blessed wine. Please do not intinct into the chalice.

Communion Music

Duet, sung by Katie Young and Via Stebbins _____ Calm to the waves

Hymn #705 _____ As saints of old their first fruits brought

Prayer after Communion Please stand as able _____ EOW1

Priest Let us pray.

People God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing _____ Anglican Communion Resources

May God, who brought water from the rock, refresh your spirit. **Amen.**

May Christ, who calls us from empty promises to faithful action, strengthen your resolve. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit flow through you like a life-giving river, bringing hope, healing, and renewal to every community and every corner of creation. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Out

Sending Out Hymn #637 _____ How firm a foundation

Sending Out

Deacon Go now into a thirsty world. Protect the springs, restore the rivers.
Treasure every drop.
Speak for communities whose voices are unheard.
Stand with those who thirst for justice as well as water.
May your lives proclaim that water is sacred, creation is God's gift, and
faithful discipleship is measured not only by what we believe but by how we
care for the sources of life. Go forth to love and serve, in peace.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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- Song of Praise: *For Beauty of Meadows* from *Community of Christ Sings* (#142), Welsh Melody; adapt. *Caniadau y Cyssegr* © 1971 Walter Farquharson.
- *There's a wideness in God's mercy*, text by Frederick William Faber (1862), music by Karen Marolli (1975).
- *Sanctus* by John Bell © 1988 WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc.
- *The Lord's Prayer*, text by Rev. Martha Blacklock for Mother Thunder Mission, a project of inclusive language and imagery for worship.
- *Fraction: This is the body of Christ* by John Bell © 1998 WGRG / The Iona Community.
- *Calm to the waves*, Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publishing, Inc. Music: Thomas Pavlecheko. © 2002 Selah Publishing Co, Ltd.

**The flowers that decorate our altar this morning were given by Bill & Bea White
in appreciation for being a part of St. Jude's.**

This Week at St. Jude's

Wednesday, 9/23 7 pm: Inquirer's Class, Library
Thursday, 9/24 6 pm: Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 9/25 10:30 am: Alzheimer's Seminar, VBH

It's Sock Sunday! Come to Vandenberg Hall and "purchase" the socks we already picked up for only \$10/dozen, and Outreach will donate them to Crossover Ministries in Flint.

<u>Serving at the Liturgy Today</u>		<u>Next Sunday</u>
Presiding	Rev. Susan Williams	Rev. Susan Anslow Williams
Deacon	Rev. Judy Marinco	off
Organist	Ron Spaulding	Ron Spaulding
Choir Director	Katie Young	Katie Young
Eucharistic Minister	Clay Putnam	Paul Dolza
Intinction Cup	Amy Freeman	Mary Louise S.
Reader	Nancy Day	Pedro Melchor
Prayers	Dolores Ruby	Dee Grossmann
Ushers	Lisa & Kelly Cronk	Nancy D., Lynne R.
Live-streamer	Lynn Hopper	Paul Dolza
Vestry P. of the Day	Mark Jagos	Diane Putnam
Altar Guild	Mary Louise, Diane H.	Dee G., Lisa C.
Coffee Hour	Diane & Doug Hill	Annette Boyd

Those bright green ♥ **your neighbor** yard signs are here! \$6 each, cash or check to St Jude's.

Inquirers Class - Learn more about being an Episcopalian

Our first in-person session will be this Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm, at the church. In advance of the class please read the intro and first four chapters (pages 7-64) in *Jesus was an Episcopalian (and you can be one too)*. It's a quick, enjoyable read and we can give you a copy today.

The **candidates for the first Bishop for the Diocese of the Great Lakes** have been announced. **This Friday, September 25**, there will be a couple of opportunities for a meet and greet with the candidates. One at **St. Paul's in downtown Flint from 3 – 4:30 pm** and another on **Zoom from 7 – 8:30 pm**. *Pre-registration is required: go to greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search/candidates/*

The Alzheimer's Association of Michigan will return on **Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m. in Vandenberg Hall**. "Understanding Alzheimer's-related Behaviors," will discuss how to respond appropriately and recognizing when additional help is needed. Please pass along the opportunity to anyone you know, who would benefit from this class. To register call the Alzheimer's Association at its 24/7 helpline, **800-272-3900**.

CROP Walk is Sunday, October 4. Money raised goes to Church World Service. A lot of the money we raise goes right back into outreach programs in the Fenton area including what we do here at St. Jude's. Give to a walker or see Dave Rayner to walk and raise funds yourself.

Prayer List

Pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Anne, our Assisting Bishop; for all lay and ordained leaders in the Diocese of the Great Lakes; for Susan, our Priest-in-Charge; for Judy, our Deacon; for the Vestry.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. John's, Midland - Alissa Anderson, Priest-in-Charge
St. Timothy's, Richland - Joel Turmo, Rector

Our prayers for healing and comfort are asked for: Donald, Chuck, Molly, Matt, Jenny, Jerry, Harvey, Melissa, Brian, Abby, Marilyn, Ron, Tony, Emily Jane, Francine, Anna, Jan, Nina, Ellen, Toñio and the Salcedo family, Kathy, Sarah, Charles, Genevieve, Jerry, Chet.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
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CREATION WORD SEARCH

S	E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	Z	T	N	L	I	F	E	N
I	A	F	L	C	E	F	U	R	N	I	D	R	I	Z	Y	U
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BEGINNING

CATTLE

CREATED

CREATURES

DARKNESS

DAY

DRY

EARTH

EVENING

FIRMAMENT

FRUIT

GOD

GOOD

GRASS

HEAVEN

LAND

LIFE

LIGHT

MADE

MAN

MOON

MORNING

NIGHT

SEA

SEASONS

SIGNS

SPIRIT

STARS

SUN

TREES

VOID

WATERS