



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II • July 26, 2026

Celebrant: The Reverend Peter F. Walsh

Preacher: The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey

Assisting: The Reverend John Kennedy

Opening Organ Voluntary

Siciliano ("for a High Ceremony")

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Welcome

Entrance Hymn 427 (Stz. 1-2, 5)

"When morning gilds the skies"

1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart, awaking, cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
2. When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
hath none that can compare
with: Jesus Christ be praised!
5. Sing, suns and stars of space,
sing, ye that see his face,
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er,
both now and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Words: German, ca. 1800; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt.
Music: *Laudes Domini*, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All remain standing, as able, and sing the following.

Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord 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.**

The First Reading *All may sit*

1 Kings 3:5-12

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.

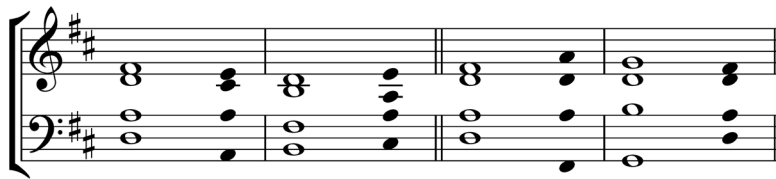
Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

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."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:129-136 (*To be sung by congregation and choir.* ✓ = **take a breath.**)



Chant by Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)

- 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 com-/mandments.
- 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 op-/press me, *
and I will keep your com-/mandments.
- 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.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

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 height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

The people stand, as able.

The Gospel Acclamation



Traditional plainsong

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey

The people stand, as able.

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:
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.

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our Bishops;
Peter, Elizabeth, and John, our clergy; and all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

We give thanks for...

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We remember all those commended to our community for prayer...
Have compassion on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for all who have died...
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **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 your Son 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 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements



**New to St. Mark's or Visiting
and interested in learning more?**
Please scan the QR code and
help us connect with you.



To give to St. Mark's
please scan the QR code.
We thank you for
your generosity.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Solo

If God be for us, who can be against us (from Messiah, 1741)

G. F. Handel (1685-1750)

Ryan Deal, tenor

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,
who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us. *[Romans 8:31b-34]*

The people stand, as able.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer C

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, ' God of pow-er and might, heav'n___ and
earth___ are full___ of your glo - ry. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est. ' Ho -
san - na in the high-est. blest is he who comes_ in the name_ of the
Lord. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est. ' Ho - san - na in the high-est._____

Music: from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him,
and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends,
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, gave thanks, 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."

Celebrant Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah,
Jacob and Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.
Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength;
for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body,
one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

Communion Solo *What though I trace each herb and flower* (from *Solomon*, 1748)

G. F. Handel

What though I trace each herb and flow'r, that drink the morning dew,
Did I not own Jehovah's pow'r, how vain were all I knew.

Hymn 635 (Soloist) "If thou but trust in God to guide thee"

Post-Communion Prayer (*said 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.**

On occasions when the Eucharist is to be sent out

The Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor

People **We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go
may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

The Blessing

People **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 447

"The Christ who died but rose again"

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Christ who died but rose again
triumphant from the grave,
now pleads our cause at God's right hand
all powerful to save. | 3. The troubles that are ours to bear
are trials we cannot flee;
yet he who loved us from the first
ensures our victory. |
| 2. What now can separate us from
the love of Christ our Lord?
Can persecution, nakedness,
or peril, or the sword? | 4. Thus nothing in the heights or depths,
no power earth can afford,
will separate us from the love
of Jesus Christ our Lord. |

Words: Granton Douglas Hay (b. 1943), alt.; based on *Paraphrases*, 1781; para. of Romans 8:34-39
Music: *St. Magnus*, melody from *Divine Companion*, 1707; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)
after John Pyke Hullah (19th cent.)

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go and make disciples who live
a deeper life in Christ
a more holy communion with one another and
a greater love for the world.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Organ Voluntary

Postlude on "St. Magnus"

Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)

Ned's Notes: Our **Opening Organ Voluntary**, Howells' lyrical, slightly melancholic *Siciliano* ("for a High Ceremony") was written for the wedding of Jane McNeill and the Earl of Dalkeith at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, in 1953. Queen Elizabeth II attended the wedding, but Howells could not because of a foot injury. Our **Offertory Solo**, Handel's *If God be for us, who can be against us*, the last solo movement before the glorious final chorus of *Messiah*, is normally heard sung by a soprano in G minor.

But Handel's original version was a fifth lower (in C minor) for an alto voice. Handel frequently re-cast solo movements of his oratorios to suit various soloists—Ryan Deal offers it this morning in a version for tenor. In *What though I trace each herb and flower*, our **Communion Solo**, Solomon (in Handel's oratorio of the same name) reflects on his deep knowledge of botany and nature, yet he concludes that all human intellect and worldly beauty pale next to the glory of God.

We thank the following who are serving today:

Lectors: Lise Leist, Janet Prill

Intercessor: Amanda Sutton

Ushers: Lynn Donahue, Paton Larkin, Tom Pettibone, Paul Reiss, Eric Thunem

Chalice Ministers: Duke Beecher, Lise Leist, Zack Crawford, Deb Luchs

Greeters: Eleanor Lisher, Nancy Geary

Organist-Choirmaster: Ned Tipton

Soloist: Ryan Deal

Flower Guild

Altar Guild: Katherine Sherwin, Alice Clark, Eloise Killeffer, Hillary McGrail, Natalie Venetos, Beth Torrenzano

Coffee Hour: Andrew & Kelly Meaney

Hymns and service music are printed,
and organ music streamed, under OneLicense A-734671.

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 26, 2026 • The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to St. Mark's. We are a community of love formed by the grace of God.

Together we seek to follow the spiritual practices of a Jesus-centered life. We hope that you will join us as we seek a deeper life in Christ, a more holy communion with one another, and a greater love for the world.

You can find more information on our website: www.stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Weekly Worship

Worship and Program Schedule

Sunday Holy Eucharist

8AM In the Chapel

9AM Outdoors

10AM Indoors & live-streamed

Weekday Morning Prayer via Zoom

Monday-Friday • 8:30AM • Morning Prayer Rite II

Praying of the Rosary

Wednesday at 8:45AM via conference call

Call in: 978.990.5000 (access code: 811368)

Centering Prayer

Thursday at 12:15PM in the church

Urgent Appeal: Episcopal Church in Cuba

You may have seen recent news articles about the extent of the humanitarian catastrophe occurring in Cuba. The people are facing extreme food insecurity. Electricity is sporadic. Most drinking water is unsafe. If they can obtain fuel, the cost is a staggering \$28 per US gallon – on a typical salary of \$16 per month.

The Episcopal Church in Cuba has been doing everything in its power to help ease the suffering of the people – by providing community meals, clean safe water, solar powered electricity, and community through prayer.

But now the church in Cuba is in peril. Recent sanctions on banking transactions have prevented the US Episcopal Church from transferring the church operating budget for the past year, so there is no money left to support and sustain the church. **No money for salaries, for**

food programs, for water programs, for solar programs or for any other general expenses.

The Friends of the Episcopal Church in Cuba (www.friendsofecuba.org) have been **the sole lifeline for the Cuban church**, to directly enable the Church to keep paying the clergy and staff, funding food programs, and purchasing solar panels for powering the churches and water purification systems.

Please consider supporting the Friends of the Episcopal Church in Cuba by mailing your check to Friends of E.C.C. to: Rev. Mark Pendleton, Treasurer, FRECC, 218 Post Road, Greenland NH 03840.

Scan the QR code to make a credit card donation through St. Mark's.



Open Doors: Help Fight Food Insecurity

St. Mark's is partnering with Open Doors of Norwalk to help close the summer meal gap for local families. Summer is one of the hardest stretches for food-insecure households, as school meal programs pause and pantry shelves run low when need is highest.

Throughout the month, please drop off non-perishable food donations in the bins located in the narthex and outside Morrill Hall. **If you'd like to volunteer to drive our collected items over to Open Doors**, please be in touch: 203-966-4515 or bralston@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Grocery Pantry Most Needed Items

Low-sodium and sugar-free options are appreciated.

Manual can openers, Spaghetti, Spaghetti sauce, Peanut butter, Rice (2 lb bags), Mac & cheese, Canned vegetables,

Vegetable oil, Sugar (2 or 4 lb bags), Cereal, Oatmeal, Coffee, Tea, Spices, Fresh fruit and vegetables, Salad dressing & condiments, Canned pasta dinners, Jelly (grape or strawberry), Dried beans (red or black), Canned beans (red or black), Fruit cups or canned fruit, Canned tuna or chicken, All-purpose flour (2 or 5 lb bags), Pancake mix & syrup, Cream of wheat, Juice or juice boxes, Dry or shelf-stable milk, Reusable grocery bags.

Regular sizes are better than big family/economy size products! Many homes have limited storage, and it's also easier to carry for people who are walking or taking public transit.

You can also visit <https://www.opendoorsctdonate.org> to shop online and help stock their grocery pantry!

Venezuela Earthquakes: Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Relief

On June 24, two strong earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela in rapid succession. Your gift to Episcopal Relief & Development's International Disaster Fund supports work with local partners to provide critical relief today

and long-term recovery support to those impacted by disasters like the earthquakes in Venezuela. **Scan the QR code to give to Episcopal Relief & Development.**



Wishing Fr. John and Emma Farewell: Sunday, August 2

Fr. John's coming home to St. Mark's has been blessing upon blessing. Now it is time for us to send him off to the next season of his life and ministry. Please come wish John and Emma Godspeed if you are in the neighborhood that Sunday. **There is still time to contribute to the free-will thank offering purse.** You may send a check

with "John Kennedy Purse" in the memo line to the Church office, give on Realm, or simply drop it in the plate on Sunday. The office will work as a flow-through agent, giving Fr. John a single check for the total collected. (Kindly note that these are gifts directly to John and therefore not tax deductible). Thank you!

Apple Pay and Google Pay Are Now Available at St. Mark's!

Making a gift is now easier than ever. St. Mark's now accepts donations through Apple Pay and Google Pay for one-time gifts and pledge payments. **Simply scan the QR code** or visit our website to give. **For questions,**

please contact Nancy Walton,
Director of Stewardship & Development
at nwalton@stmarksnewcanaan.org.



Clothes to Kids K-12 Clothing Collection

From **August 2-23**, clean out those closets and bring your CLEAN or NEW clothing for children K-12 and place in the **boxes marked for this purpose outside Morrill Hall.**

Clothes to Kids of Fairfield County (CTKF) provides new and quality used clothing to low-income or in-crises school aged children, free of charge. The mission of CTKF is for every child to have quality clothing to attend

school so that they may have the confidence and self-esteem to achieve academic success. Each eligible child may visit the CTKF twice a year to "shop" for a full week's worth of school clothes.

Questions? Contact Beth Ralston at bralston@stmarksnewcanaan.org or call the church office: 203-966-4515.

Volunteer at Laundry Love - August 5

On **Wednesday, August 5**, come alongside those in need to help with laundry at Giant Laundry in Norwalk (7 Rowan St, Norwalk, CT 06855).

A two-hour shift is the only commitment!
Laundry Love meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Since 2018, Laundry Love has provided a sense of dignity and empowerment to those facing financial hardship through clean clothes.

Available shifts: 1-3PM, 3-5PM, & 5-7PM.

First time serving? No problem!

Experienced Laundry Love volunteers will be on hand to help. Be part of this impactful ministry inspired by our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being.

To volunteer, scan the QR code or email us at churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org

