

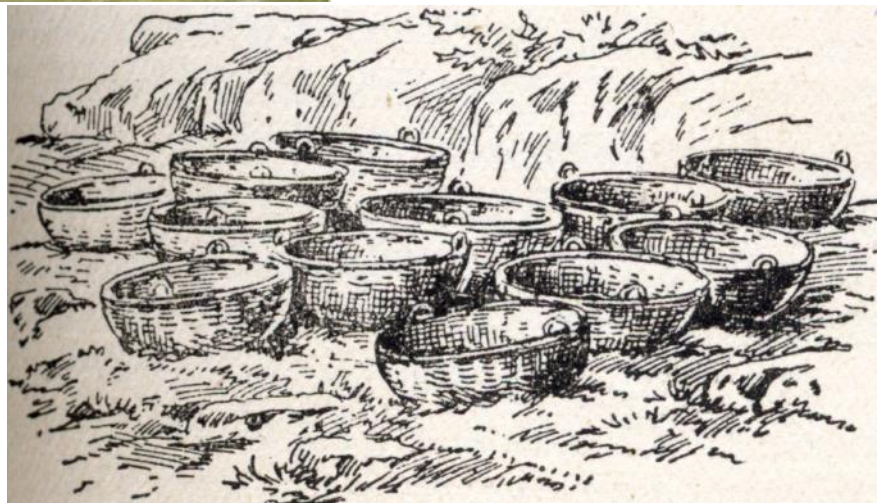
# Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST EVENING PRAYER



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Opening Acclamation

Leader: *Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.* Psalm 74:15,16

## Confession of Sin

Leader: *Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

Leader: *Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

## The Invitatory

*All stand as able*

Leader: *O God, make speed to save us.*

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Leader and People together*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Leader and People together*

**O Gracious Light**

**O gracious light,**

**pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,**

**O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

**and our eyes behold the vesper light,**

**we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,**

**O Son of God, O Giver of Life,**

**and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Please be seated.

## **Psalm 14**

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, \*

to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*

who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?

5 See how they tremble with fear, \*

because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, \*

but the LORD is their refuge.

7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*

when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## **Old Testament**

*A reading from The Second Book of Samuel (11:1-15).*

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 141: 1-4a, 8

- 1 I call upon you, O LORD; come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
- 2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.
- 3 Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.
- 4 Do not turn my heart to any evil.
- 8 My eyes are turned toward you, O GOD, my Lord;  
in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

*Leader and People together*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## The Epistle

*A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (3:14-21).*

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **A Song of True Motherhood** (Julian of Norwich)

- 1 God chose to be our mother in all things  
and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humble and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.
- 2 God, the perfect wisdom of all,  
arrayed himself in this humble place.
- 3 Christ came in our poor flesh  
to share a mother's care.
- 4 Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;  
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.
- 5 Christ carried us within him in love and travail,  
until the full time of his passion.
- 6 And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy,  
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.
- 7 All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,  
for the love of Christ works in us;  
Christ is the one whom we love.

*Leader and People together*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia**

*The people stand as they are able.*

### **The Gospel**

**John 6:1-21**

**J**esus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him,

“Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Apostle's Creed (together)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Let us pray.*

**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.**



## Suffrages

*Leader: That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,*

*People: **We entreat you, O Lord.***

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before  
the great judgment seat of Christ,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St Ste-  
phen and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

For our own community and families, that we may know God's presence and em-  
body God's love,  
**we entreat you, O Lord.**

For those who have died, especially those we name now (pause for names),  
**we entreat you, O Lord.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Anglican Church of Rwanda,  
**we entreat you, O Lord.**

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, for the Church of St Luke's at the Mountain in  
Phoenix,  
**we entreat you, O Lord.**

For our Armed Forces, those who are far from home, for their safety and the well-  
being of their families and loved ones left behind,  
**we entreat you, O Lord.**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as  
custodians of the earth given to them by our one and only Creator God. We com-  
mit ourselves to work actively alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and

justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

Leader: *Let us pray together:*

**Teach us, Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to work and not to seek to rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Holy God, make us holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us love. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **Collects**

Leader: *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.*

Leader: *Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.*

Leader: *Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Saying together...*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

*Leader: Let us bless the Lord.*

*People: Thanks be to God.*

*Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

