

September 15 & 16, 2018Rev. Julie Williams Presiding
Sat 5pm & Sun 7:30am

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.

THE SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



HOLY EUCHARIST

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and ever living God.

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

*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.***

Gloria

BCP pg. 356

All say together

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Let us pray.*

*O God, by whose grace your servant Hildegard, kindled with the fire of your love, became a burning and shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

The Word of God

First Reading

A Letter of Hildegard to Pope Eugenius III, 1148 AD

Gentle Father, though a small and insignificant figure, I write to you now, in a true vision by mystical inspiration, on all that God wishes me to teach.

Resplendent Father, you came to our land in your official capacity, as God willed it, and you saw something of the true visions which the Living Light has taught me, and you heard them in the embrace of your heart. Now that a part of this writing is finished, still the same Light has not left me but burns in my soul as I have had it since childhood. Therefore I send you now this letter in the true admonition of God. And my soul desires that the Light from the Light will shine within you and pour over your eyes and awaken your spirit to these writings so that your soul may be crowned by them, as God so wishes. But many wise men of earthly inclination have rejected these things, in the inconstancy of their hearts, because they come from this poor female figure who was formed in the rib and not taught by the philosophers.

Father of pilgrims, hear the voice of Him who is. A strong king sat in his hall, high pillars before him covered in gold bands and adorned with pearls and precious stones. And the king chose to touch a tiny feather, so that it soared up marvelously, and a strong wind bore it up so that it did not fall. Again he speaks to you - he who is the Living Light shining in the heavens and in the abyss, not hidden or concealed by listening hearts. And he says: 'Prepare this writing to be received by those who hear me; make it green with the juice of sweetness; make it a branching root and a soaring leaf against the devil. Then you will live in eternity. Do not reject these secrets of God, for they are part of that need which is hidden and which has not yet appeared openly.'

May the sweetest fragrance be in you. May you never tire on the path of justice.

Lector: *Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

BCP p. 606

Qui confidunt

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and
runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the
innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
 cleans me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me; *
 then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great
 offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable in your sight, *
 O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading

A reading from The Letter of James (3:1-12).

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Lector: *Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as they are able.

Gospel

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

People: **Glory to You Lord Christ.**

Mark 8: 27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Celebrant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Sermon

The people stand as they are able. All 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: 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

The leader and people pray responsively

Leader: Jesus calls us today to give up our lives for others. That we may have the faith to live as Jesus did, let us pray for all in need, saying: Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

O gracious God, you have given up your very self to save the world. That we may be empowered to give up ourselves for one another, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

You have made your people equal and free in the baptism of your Son. That we may live joyfully in this new way, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

You call us to take up our cross and follow the way of Christ. That we may serve one another and live in obedience to your word, as Hildegard of Bingen did, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

You give us enough that we may share with the needy. That we and all providers of relief may be constant in our care for others, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Episcopal Church of Sudan, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, for All Saints Church in Safford, we pray: **Send us your Spirit, 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 pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

We commit ourselves to work actively alongside the first peoples of this land for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person. For this we pray: **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

Leader: *Loving God, we thank you for answering our prayers in sending the Reverend Allison Cornell to be among us as our rector. We ask that you empower her with your Holy Spirit, that her counsel might be blessed with wisdom and insight, and that all our work together may witness to the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. For this we pray:* **Send us your Spirit, O Lord.**

Celebrant: *Hear our prayers, O merciful God, and accept our praises. May the gospel of your cross give its miraculous life to all the world, through Christ our Lord.* **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

The people kneel as they are able.

All say together

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Please come forward, anyone wishing a prayer for

Birthday, Anniversary and/or Healing

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High *Psalm 50:14*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Then the Celebrant continues

*God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.***

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

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

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.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

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

BCP pg. 362

**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

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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as
we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; 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.

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

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. AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant : *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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

The Breaking of the Bread

**Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant invites the people to Communion

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 people stand as they are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the 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.

Blessing

The Celebrant says

*The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.***

Dismissal

Celebrant: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ.* Alleluia. Alleluia

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

