

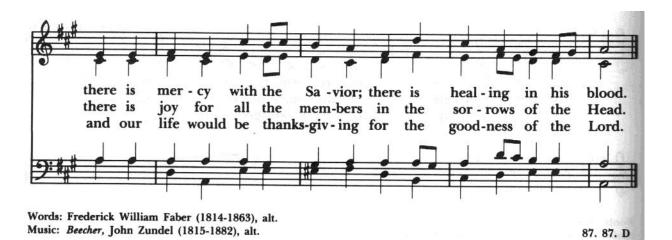
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 25 & 26 July 2020



Welcome & Announcements

470 Jesus Christ our Lord wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea; no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in There is heaven: broad - er than the mea-sure of the the love of God is mind; kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given. and the heart of the E - ter-nal most won-der-ful-ly is wel-come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed; our love were but more faith-ful. we should take him at



The Word of God

BCP p. 355

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider

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.**

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.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please be seated for the lessons. Lessons are found on the Lectionary insert)

The Lessons

First Lesson: A reading from the book of **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."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Psalm 119:129-136

Mirabilia

- 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 commandments.
- 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 oppress me, * and I will keep your commandments.

- 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.

Second Lesson: A reading from the book of the **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.

Reader The Word of the Lord People Thanks be to God

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

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord. **People Praise to you Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

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:

Form II

(In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.)

Leader:

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Michael and Jennifer; for this gathering; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the bishops gathered in Canterbury, Kent for the Lambeth Conference; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for St Stephen's, in Douglas and for our Native American neighbors, especially the Apache and Pascua Yaqui who call this part of Arizona their home. For all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Leader: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Leader: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of

him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed [especially ______].

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.

Presider: 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

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

A Brief Silence may be kept.

All: 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.

Presider 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.

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(People exchange a 6 ft distanced peace, offering peace signs, namaste (prayer hands with head bow), or virtual hug (arms crossed over chest).

Offertory

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and

sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

(Plates/baskets will not be passed and will not be brought forward during the service. Please drop your offering into the plate or basket without touching them on the way into or out of the church)

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

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:

All:

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.

Then the Presider continues

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: Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

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 (spoken)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Please follow the directions of the priest and maintain distancing. Receive the bread in your outstretched hand, move 6ft over and lift/lower mask to consume the bread. Replace mask and return to seat).

Communion Music

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Gratitude Sharing

(remain in your seat area, stand for recognition or sharing)

Post Communion Prayer The people stand as they are able.

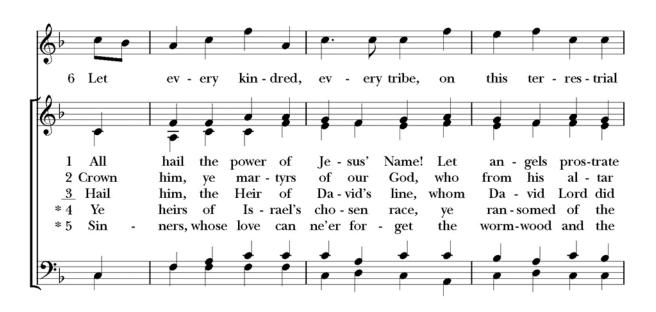
Presider Let us Pray

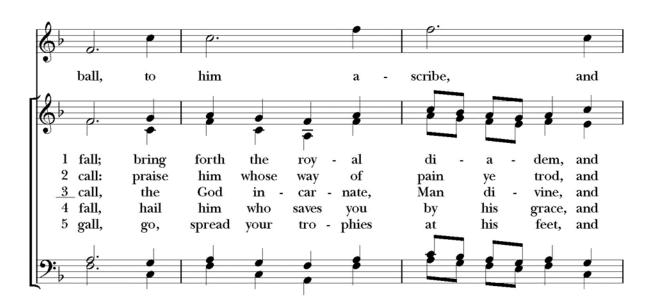
All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: May the peace which surpasses 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: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn







6 Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

Words: Edward Perronet (1726-1792), alt. Music: Coronation, Oliver Holden (1765-1844), alt.; desc. Michael E. Young (b. 1939) Copyright ©1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All right reserved. Used with permission.

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Please, join us for a time of appropriately distanced fellowship after the service in the Parish Hall. Please keep your masks on during this time.