



Seventeenth Sunday
After Pentecost

Sat: 5pm
Sun: 10:30am

26 & 27 September 2020 (Ante Communion)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ



Gathering Hymn (*I Sing a Song of the Saints*)

The Hymnal 1982 #408)



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, _____
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and _____
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who _____ toiled and _____ fought and _____
 his love _____ made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for _____
 hund - reds of thou - sands still, the _____ world is _____ bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And _____
 Je - sus' sake, the _____ whole of their good lives long. And _____
 joy - ous saints who _____ love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -
 one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was _____ slain
 meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the _____ green: they were all of them saints of _____
 by a fierce wild _____ beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -
 or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of _____ God are just



God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like _____ me, and I mean to be one too.

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.**

Gloria/Glory to God

BCP p. 356

**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.*

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 **Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader *The Word of the Lord*

People **Thanks be to God**

{Let us all recite in unison}

Psalm 25:1-8

Ad te, Domine, levavi

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Second Lesson: A reading from the book of the **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure

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 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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 VI

(The Leader and People pray responsively)

Leader: *In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.*

For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: *For this community, the nation, and the world;*

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: *For the just and proper use of your creation;*

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: *For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;*

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: *For the peace and unity of the Church of God;*

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: *For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;*

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: *In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.*

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: *In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Trinity Church, in Kingman.*

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: *We also pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and the Pascua Yaqui who call this area of Arizona their home.*

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: *For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.*

(The People may add their own petitions, aloud or silently)

Leader *Hear us, Lord;*
People **For your mercy is great.**

Leader: *We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.*
(The People may add their own thanksgivings, aloud or silently)

Leader *We will exalt you, O God our King;*

People: **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader: *We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.* (people remember those who have died)

Leader: *Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;*

People: **Who put their trust in you.**

Leader: *We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.*

**All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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)).

(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)

Presider *And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

Birthday's, Prayers of Healing, Blessings and gratitude

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.**



1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:___
 3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,___
 4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!___



thee___ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;___
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O___ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
 win, with___ them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are___ one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



*5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the
 *6 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west; soon, soon to faith - ful



dis - tant tri - umph song, and hearts are — brave a - gain, and arms are
war - riors com - eth rest; — sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the

strong. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
blest.

*7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the
*8 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through

saints tri - umph - ant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host —

King of — glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

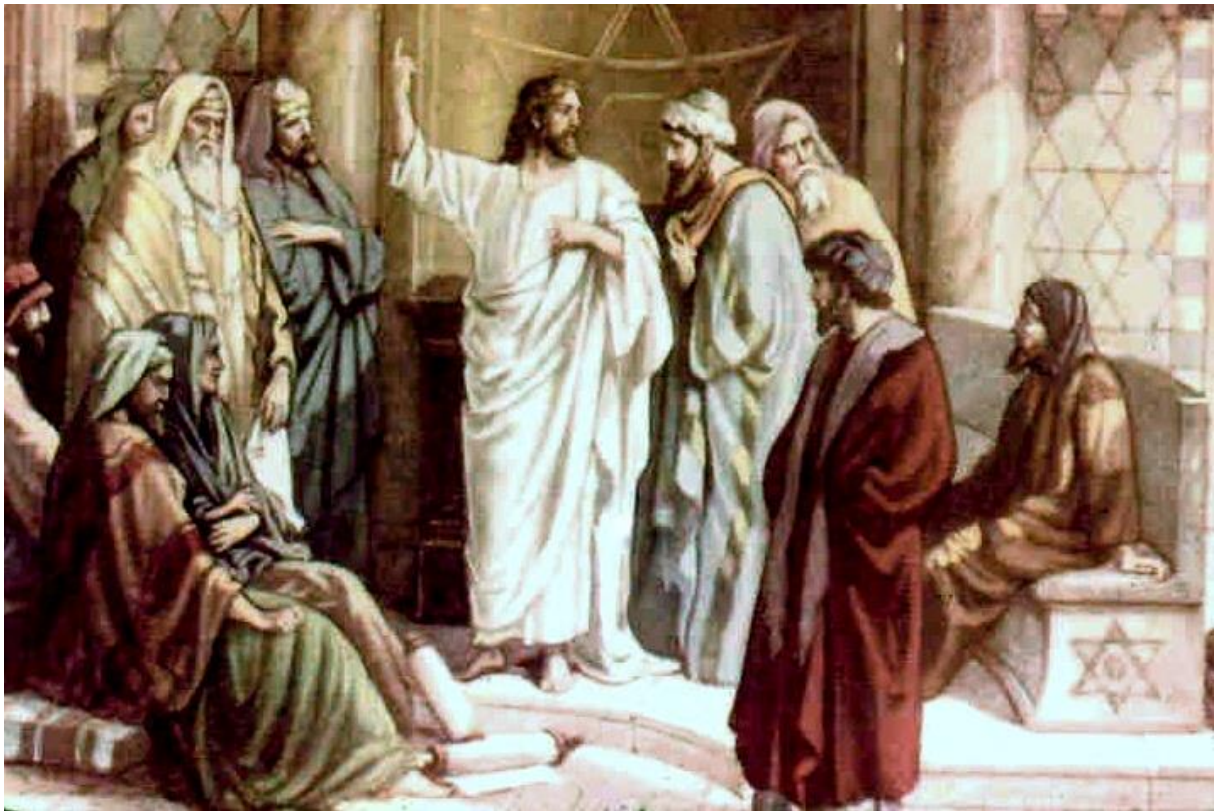
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

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

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







ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH