



Twenty-third Sunday

Sat: 5pm

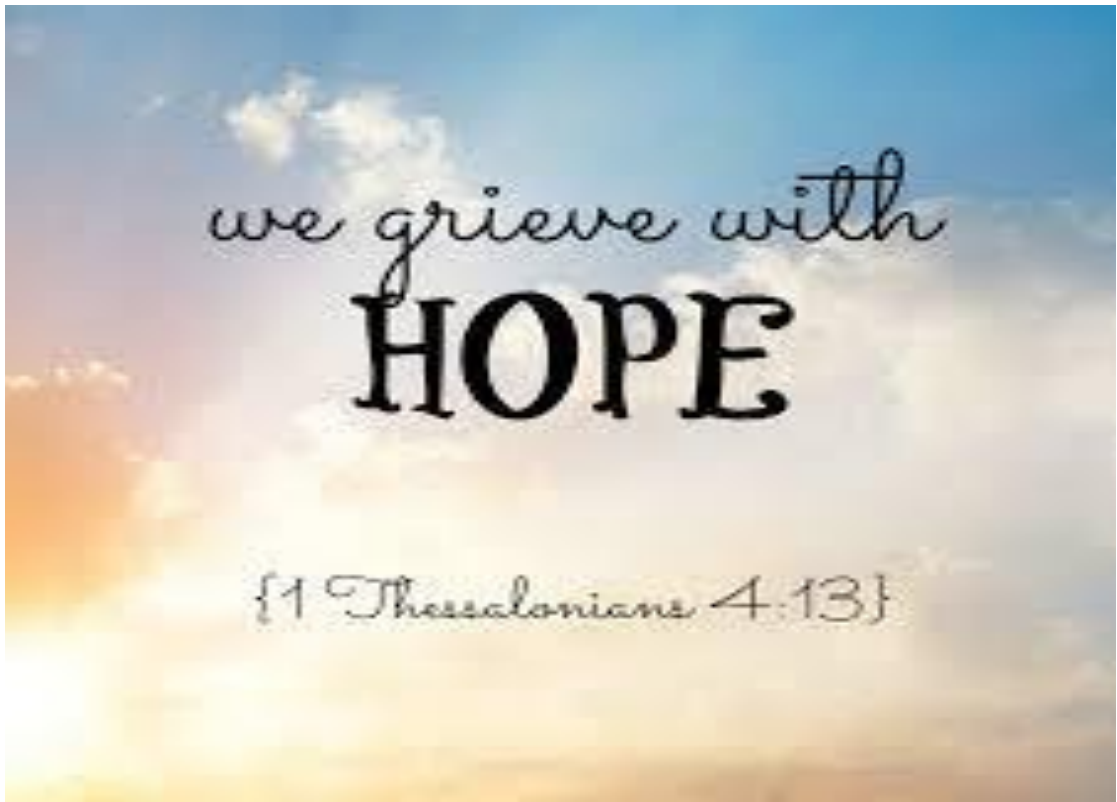
After Pentecost

Sun: 10:30am

7 & 8 Nov 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ



Welcome & Announcements₁

Opening Song 10:30am Sunday- (*Sleepers, Wake!*: 1982 Hymnal #61)

1 "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds "A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
Bride - groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -



ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 als as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -



sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to



has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.



Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

Presider *Holy Wisdom, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost: inspire us with your truth, that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with open hearts, through Christ our Savior.*

Amen.

Canticle of Praise – The Venite (Psalm 95:1-7)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Let us pray.*

Collect of the Day (*said together in unison*)

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider *Please be seated for the lessons.*

The Lessons

First Lesson: A reading from the **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

Reader *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

People Thanks be to God

{Let us all recite in unison}

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

- 17 The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her,
18 and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
19 and immortality brings one near to God;
20 so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

Second Lesson: A reading from the book of the **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

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 25:1-13

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Sermon

Nicene Creed (Contemporary Version)

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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:

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

V. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *the Church in the Province of the West Indies The Most Revd Howard Gregory - Primate and Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands*

R. Lord, bless and keep them.

V. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *Saints Philip & James, in Morenci.*

R. Lord, bless and keep them.

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

R. Lord, bless and keep them.

V. We remember those who have died (especially _____). May they have a place in your eternal kingdom

R. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

V. We lift to you the prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings of this congregation
(*people may add their prayers and gratitudes aloud or silently*)

V. Lord, in your mercy;

R. Hear our prayer.

Leader: *Let us also confess our sins to God. (a brief silence is kept)*

All: 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.

Presider *Almighty All: God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 Christ be always with you.*

People: And also with you.

(People exchange socially distant signs of peace, namaste, virtual hugs, etc..)

Offertory

Presider *Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.*

Offertory: Anthem

(please place your offering in the plate at the back of the church upon entry or exit from the service. The plate will not be passed to reduce possible germs being spread.)



The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(EOW 1)

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider continues:

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

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.***

Presider continues...

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for

all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit (+) and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

Lord's Prayer: (*Contemporary Lord's Prayer*)

All:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread *(spoken)*

Presider: *We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.*

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Invitation to Communion:

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

(Due to Coronavirus safety protocols, the church does not share the common cup at this time. People come forward to receive the bread. Please remain 6 ft apart. Receive the bread with open hands, move 6 ft to the side, lower/raise your mask to eat the bread, replace mask, and return to your 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*

People: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and 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 forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction and Dismissal

Presider: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

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

Closing Song—10:30am Sunday (*On this day* *The Hymnal 1982 #47*)

1 On this day, the first of days, God the Fa - ther's Name we praise,
 2 On this day the e - ter - nal Son o - ver death his tri - umph won;
 3 Ma - ker, who didst fa - shion me im - age of thy - self to be,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, may I be dead and bur - ied here with thee;
 5 Thou, who dost all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;

1 who, cre - a - tion's Lord and spring, did the world from dark - ness bring.
 2 on this day the Spi - rit came with his gifts of liv - ing flame.
 3 fill me with thy love di - vine, let my ev - ery thought be thine.
 4 and, by love in - flamed, a - rise un - to thee a sac - ri - fice.
 5 best of gifts, thy - self be - stow; make me burn thy love to know.

6 God, the blessed Three in One,
 dwell within my heart alone;
 thou dost give thyself to me:
 help me give myself to thee.

Words: Latin; tr. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704;
 adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. During the pandemic, we unfortunately cannot share in fellowship with food and drink at this time.

WISDOM

is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned
by those who love her,
and is found by those
who seek her.

