

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



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



**Saturday 22 July, 5pm & Sunday 23 July 10am**

Prelude: "The Water Is Wide", Appalachian melody, arr by John Purifoy

**Announcements and Welcome**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

**Salutation:**

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

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

Priest: Let us pray a prayer of preparation together:

**All: Christ our true and transforming Light: receive our prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no wrongful desires may distract or tempt us, who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. Amen.**

**The Gloria**

LEVAS #216

1. In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;  
 2. In my heart, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;  
 3. In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;

1. In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, to - day  
 2. In my heart, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, to - day  
 3. In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, to - day

**The Collect:**

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.**

## **The Readings:** *(Please be seated)*

### **First Reading: A reading from Genesis (28:10-19a)**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19** *(in place of the psalm)*

**There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.**

**For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.**

**Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.**

## **Second Reading: Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (8:12-25):**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Reading:**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Matthew ( 13:24-30,36-43)**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

### SERMON/HOMILY

**CONTEMPORARY NICENE CREED:** *(please stand as you are able)*

**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:**

Leader: Hear our cry, O God and listen to our prayer.

**People: Hear us and help us, O God**

Leader: Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples in all the nations.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Enlighten your bishops, priests and deacons (especially Michael, Jennifer, Allison, Dottie, and Sherry) with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Strengthen those who stand for justice; comfort, and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give to the Congress, the Courts, the President, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth, fairness, and equality.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Shower your compassion on prisoners, refugees, and all who are in any kind of trouble.

**People:** **Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Church of the Province of Central Africa.*

**People:** **May God bless and keep them.**

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *All Saints, Safford.*

**People:** **May God bless and keep them.**

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona Odum peoples who call this area home.

**People:** **May God bless and keep them.**

**Presider:** **Lord our God, accept the sincere prayers of your people, in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help, for you are gracious O lover of souls, and to you we give glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Confession:**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another:

**All:** **Holy and gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you this past week. Some of our sin we know—certain thoughts and words and deeds which we regret or are ashamed of. Some of which is known only to you. In your Holy Name we ask your forgiveness. Free us from our guilt and restore us to your grace that we may rest and live with peace of mind and cleanliness of heart.**

Presider: Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **The Peace:**

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

**People:** **And also with you.**

*(The people exchange greetings of peace)*

**Offertory:**

Presider Let us show our gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

**Offertory Hymn** “*Surely the Presence of the Lord*”

*{see insert}*

**The Doxology: #380 vs 3**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Supper: 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 surrounded 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/sing:

**Sanctus**

**Hymnal 1982 # S130**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (x2),  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest (x2).**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest (x2).**

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.

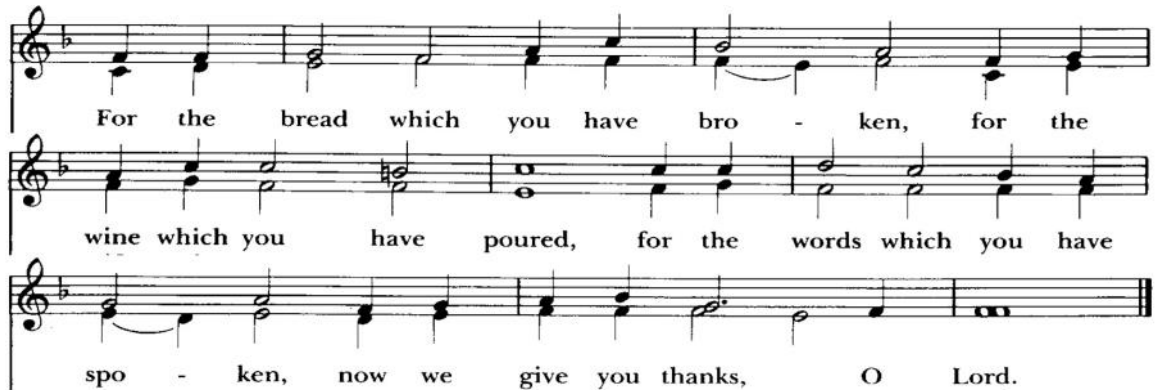
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

## CONTEMPORARY LORD'S PRAYER:

**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. And 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: *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*



For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the  
wine which you have poured, for the words which you have  
spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

Fraction Anthem #341 vs 1:

### Invitation to Communion:

Presider: This is not my table, this is not St. Stephen's church's table. This is Christ's Table. Jesus invites you to come forward and receive the bread and the wine in this place.

*Everyone is invited and welcome to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to intinct/dip your bread into the wine please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine with us, you may come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest instead.*

Communion Hymn "O love that casts out fear"

#700

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude**

## **Post Communion Prayer:**

Presider: Let us pray:

**All: 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:**

Presider: The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** *"Guide me O thou Great Jehova"*

**#690**

## **Dismissal:**

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the power of God's Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

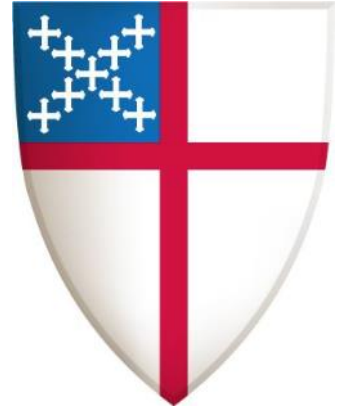
**Postlude:** *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*, St. Anne, arr William Croft

*Please join us for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.*

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update      Giving Envelopes       Mail News Letter     

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mid.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDay \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_