

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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Saturday, 7 October 5pm & Sunday, 8 October 2023 10am

Prelude: *Worship in Your Heart*, Doreen J Oberg

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Hymn "Open your ears O Faithful People"

536

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

People: and also with you.

Priest: Let us pray the collect for purity together:

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

The Gloria:

186

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain

Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God in the high -
est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to peo-ple of good
will. will. A - men. A - men.

1-4 (1st time: to Refrain) to Verses | Final Coda

Verse 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we
1. glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry,
to Verse 2 or Refrain

1. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.

Verse 2

2. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God,
2. Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world,

2. have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world,
 2. re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand,
 to Verse 3 or Refrain
 2. the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.

Verse 3
 3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 3. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 to Coda ⊕ or Refrain
 3. Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

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The Collect:

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray

ALL: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Readings: *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: 19

**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? *
cleanse 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: Reading from the Letter to the Philippians (3:4b-14)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading:

Deacon/Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (21:33-46)

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

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Deacon/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: As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world. For churches of all traditions:

People: That they may discover their unity in the One God and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the earth that it may be freed from war, famine, and disease,

People: And the air, soil, and waters be cleansed of poisons, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who govern and maintain peace in every land,

People: That they may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the strengthening of this nation to pursue just and honorable priorities,

People: So that all peoples may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For all who live and work in this town and county,

People: Preserve them in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison,

People: That you will comfort and empower them, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ who entered their eternal rest,

People: Who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for **The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.**

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Augustine's, in Tempe.**

People: May God bless and keep them.

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

People: May God bless and keep them.

Presider: Mighty God, whose Word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: Accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for the earth; through Jesus Christ, who rules over all things. Amen.

The Confession:

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

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Presider: May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in 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 Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God

Offertory Hymn “What wondrous love is this”

#439

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 - CofE Prayer D

Presider: The Lord is here.

People: **His Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them up 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:

Almighty God, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to assure us of pardon and everlasting life. Your Word goes out to call us home to the places where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Sanctus (from *Journeysongs* #189)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story.

All **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: “Take, eat: this is my body, given for you all. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine. He took the cup, gave it to them and said: “This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.” This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup (+) blessed by your Holy Spirit, we celebrate Jesus’ last supper before he died to show his love for us. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to respond to our entreaties and to answer the cares of the world. This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit upon us now (+) that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours 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 in silence)*

(from Journeysongs #194)

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

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 “Come down O Love Divine”

#516

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you, within you to keep you, before you to lead you, beside you to guard you, and above you to bless you, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

#580

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!

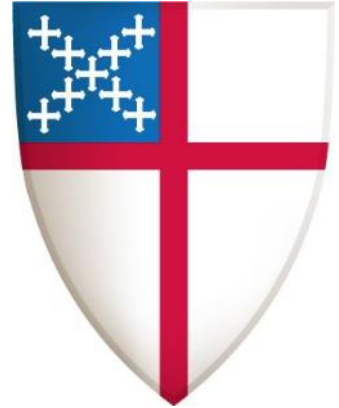
Postlude: *Brethren We Have Met Together*, 1835 Southern Harmony

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: _____, _____, _____