



The Season After
PENTECOST

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.

FEAST OF BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

9:30 am Wednesday, 20 August 2025

[From Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Bernard was the son of a knight and landowner who lived near Dijon, France. He was born in 1090 and given a secular education, but in 1113 he entered the Benedictine Abbey of Citeaux. His family was not pleased with his choice of a monastic life, but he nevertheless persuaded four of his brothers and about twenty-six of his friends to join him. After only three years, the abbot of Citeaux deployed Bernard and a small company of monks to establish a monastery at Clairvaux in 1115.

The work at Clairvaux, and the extreme rigors of the Benedictine rule practiced by the Cistercian community, were taxing. Tasked with much, Bernard denied himself sleep to the detriment of his health that he might have time to write letters and sermons. He preached so persuasively that sixty new abbeys were founded, all affiliated with Clairvaux. Famed for the ardor with which he preached love for God without measure, he fulfilled his own definition

[Continued Pg 11](#)

Opening Acclamation:

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

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

Presider: Let us pray:

All: 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 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.**

The Collect:

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray

All: O God, by whose grace your servant Bernard of Clairvaux, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

The First Lesson - A Reading from Song of Songs (1:1-8):

The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine, your anointing oils are fragrant, your name is perfume poured out; therefore the maidens love you.

Draw me after you, let us make haste. The king has brought me into his chambers.

We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you.

I am black and beautiful,

O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.

Do not gaze at me because I am dark,

Reader The Word of the Lord

because the sun has gazed on me. My mother's sons were angry with Me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept! Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon; for why should I be like one who is veiled beside the flocks of your companions?

If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow the tracks of the flock, and pasture your kids beside the shepherds' tents.

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 139:1-9

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

*** you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places

*** and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

*** but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

4 You press upon me behind and before

*** and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

*** it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?

*** where can I flee from your presence?**

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

*** if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

8 If I take the wings of the morning

*** and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

9 Even there your hand will lead me

*** and your right hand hold me fast.**

The Second Lesson - A Reading from Jude (1-3):

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for
Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we
share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that
was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson: Mark (10:23-31)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those
who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed
at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the
kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for
someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded
and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said,
“For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”
Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or
sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the
good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers
and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to
come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ**

Homily

Nicene Creed (Traditional) All say together

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

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 Sean, 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 Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for *Saints Philip & James, in Morenci.*

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for *The Diocese of Del Occidental – La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico..*

We pray also for the Apache and Tahono O’Odom first-peoples who call this area their home

People: For neighbors near and far that God may 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.

Confession of Sin

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

(a short pause)

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.

Absolution

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**

Exchange of the Peace

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

All And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

Presider: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and sacrifice to God.

Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 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 Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II C

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus -

**Holy, Holy, Holy my Heart, my Heart, adores you!
My Heart is glad to say the words,
You are Holy, Lord.**

Presider continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them (+) by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

Lord's Prayer(Traditional)

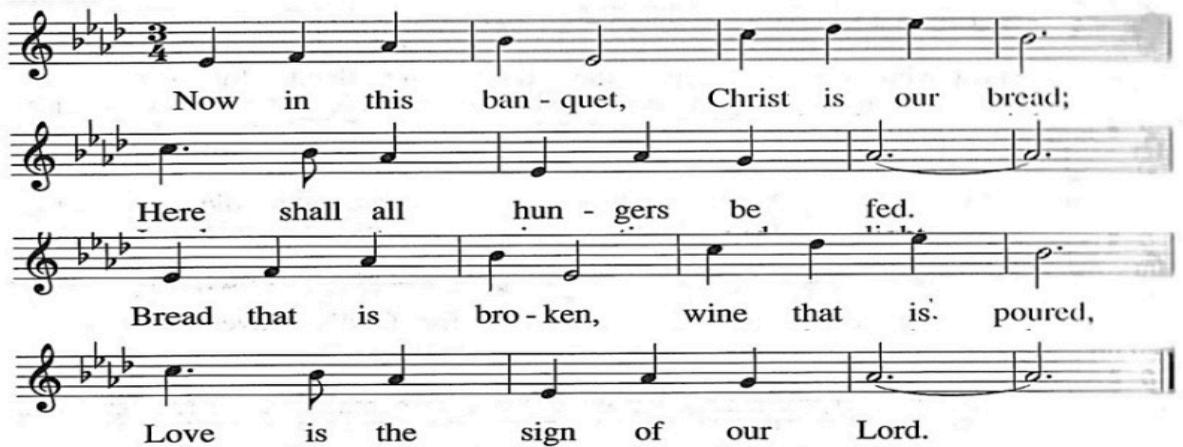
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)

Fraction Anthem

G #825 Refrain only Now in this banquet



Now in this ban - quet, Christ is our bread;
Here shall all hun - gers be fed.
Bread that is bro - ken, wine that is poured,
Love is the sign of our Lord.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Jesus the Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All are welcome and invited to come to The Lord's Supper and receive communion in this church. It is gluten free bread and real wine. To dip/intinct your bread into the wine and then consume it, please come to the left altar rail. To eat your bread and then sip wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and we will give you a blessing.

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer

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:

Presider: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever more. **Amen.**

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 into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

[Continued from front:](#)

of a holy man: “seen to be good and charitable, holding back nothing for himself, but using his every gift for the common good.”

By 1140, his writings had made him one of the most influential figures in Christendom. His guidance was sought by prelates and princes, drawing him into active participation in all manner of controversy involving the church, from settling disputes among secular rulers to sorting contentious theological debates. An ardent opponent of a growing movement of his time to reconcile inconsistencies of doctrine by reason, he felt that such an approach was a downgrading of the mysteries. This conflict took particular expression in his fierce opposition to the formidable theologian Abelard.

Among Bernard’s writings are treatises on humility and pride, on love, on the veneration of Mary, and a commentary on the Song of Songs. Among well-known hymns, he is credited with having written “O sacred head sore wounded” (The Hymnal 1982, #168; #169), “Jesus, the very thought of thee” (#642), and “O Jesus, joy of loving hearts” (#649; #650). He died on August 20, 1153.

[More From Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

Bernard of Clairvaux, O.Cist. (Latin: Bernardus Claraevallensis; 1090 – 20 August 1153), venerated as Saint Bernard, was an abbot, mystic, co-founder of the Knights Templar,[a] and a major leader in the reform of the Benedictines through the nascent Cistercian Order.

Bernard was sent to found Clairvaux Abbey only a few years after becoming a monk at Cîteaux. In the year 1128, Bernard attended the Council of Troyes, at which he traced the outlines of the Rule of the Knights Templar, which soon became an ideal of Christian nobility.

On the death of Pope Honorius II in 1130, a schism arose in the church. Bernard was a major proponent of Pope Innocent II, arguing effectively for his legitimacy over the Antipope Anacletus II.

The eloquent abbot advocated crusades in general and convinced many to participate in the unsuccessful Second Crusade, notably through a famous sermon at Vézelay (1146).

Bernard was canonized just 21 years after his death by Pope Alexander III. In 1830 Pope Pius VIII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

Early life (1090–1113)

Bernard's parents were Tescelin de Fontaine, lord of Fontaine-lès-Dijon, and Alèthe de Montbard, both members of the highest nobility of Burgundy. Bernard was the third of seven children, six of whom were sons. Aged nine, he was sent to a school at Châtillon-sur-Seine run by the secular canons of Saint-Vorles. Bernard had an interest in literature and rhetoric.

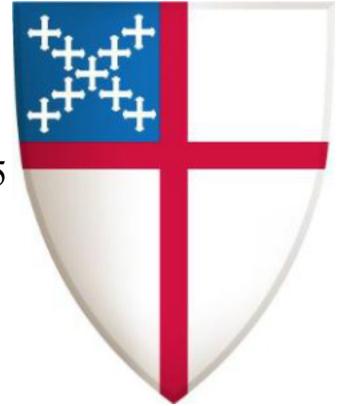
Bernard's mother died when he was a youth. During his education with priests, he often thought of becoming one. In 1098, a group led by Robert of Molesme had founded Cîteaux Abbey, near Dijon, with the purpose of living according to a literal interpretation of the Rule of St. Benedict. They established new administrative structures among their monasteries, effectively creating a new order, known, after the first abbey, as the Order of Cistercians.[3] After his mother died, Bernard decided to go to Cîteaux. In 1113 he and thirty other young noblemen of Burgundy, many of whom were his relatives, sought and gained admission to the

[Continued online](#)

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Welcome Visitor!!!

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



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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