



WELCOME TO 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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ANTE COMMUNION

Saturday 8 Sep, 5pm & Sunday, 7 Sep, 10am 2025



Prelude: "Be Thou My Vision", traditional Irish tune arr. Christina Becket
Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dcn. Sherry Simon**

The Word of God

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

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

Collect for Purity:

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:

**Gloria 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,**

H1982 #S-280

**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 Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you
always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never
forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.**

Ministry of The Word—*(please be seated for the lessons)*

1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay

was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

**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.**

**12 For you yourself created my
inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my
mother's womb.**

**13 I will thank you because I am
marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I
know it well.**

**14 My body was not hidden from
you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the**

2nd Lesson: A Reading from the Letter to the Philemon (1-21):

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Gospel Lesson: Luke :14: 25-33

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you,

intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

Nicene Creed (Traditional)

BCP p. 358

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 II revised)

Leader: We pray for God's people throughout the world: For Sean and Jennifer our Bishops, For this gathering of St. Stephen's, and:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for **St. Mary's, in Phoenix.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer for **the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.**

For the first peoples of the Apache and Tahono O'odom who call this area their home. And for all ministers and people

People: We pray for the Church and God's people.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Leader: We pray for peace, for good will among nations and for the well being of all people.

People: We pray for Justice and Peace.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Leader: We pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

People: We pray for all who are in any need or trouble.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Leader: We pray for all who seek God or a deeper knowledge of him.

People: We pray that they may find and be found by God.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Leader: We pray for the departed.

People: We pray for those who have died.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Leader: We praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

People: We pray that we may have the grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

(A moment of silence for quiet prayer)

Presider: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor:

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.**

The Peace:

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

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: “God is love, and where true love is”, #576

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.**

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**

Closing Hymn: “We Will Serve the Lord”, G#652

Dismissal

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

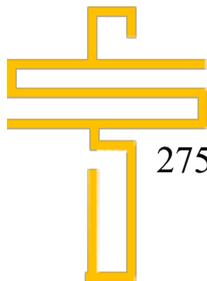
People: **We are called to Love and Serve**

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

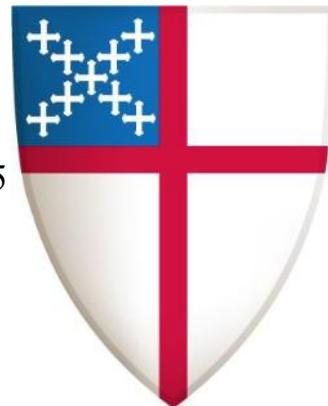
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Postlude: **“Amazing Grace”**, traditional American tune, arr Joyn Purifoy

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: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____