

**TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO**  
**AUGUST 15, 2021 ■ 10:30 A.M.**



**Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has worshipped on this corner of North James and Mulberry Streets in Goldsboro since 1857 — in the same building! We welcome you to our historic building, but more than that, we are happy to have you worship with us.

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**VOLUNTARY**

*Aria*

N. Rawsthorne

The people of God gather to proclaim and respond to the Word of God.

**PROCESSIONAL**

*Immortal, invisible*

Hymn 423

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

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.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS (Please be seated.)

**The First Reading:** *1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*

David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after

you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 111** *Confitebor tibi*

*(we read the Psalm responsively by whole verse)*

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, \*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*  
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.

**4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
all his commandments are sure.

**8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.

**10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Second Reading:** *Ephesians 5:15-20*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 439**

*What wondrous love*

**The Gospel:** *John 6:51-58* (Please stand.)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. Polk Culpper

## **THE NICENE CREED** (All stand.)

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Beloved God, we thank you for giving us power through your Spirit to reveal your life to the world: strengthen, bless, and guide us to make you known by word and example.

We are your Church, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth you have given us to cherish and protect: nourish in us your love for all you have made.

We are your stewards, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

Guide and bless us in our work and in our play, and shape the patterns of our political and economic life, that all people may share in the fulfillment of your creative work.

We are your servants, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

Awaken our hearts to your presence in all people; in those we love easily and those with whom we struggle, in those different from us and those familiar to us.

We are made in your image, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

We thank you for calling us to a glorious heritage as your holy people. Free us from lack of vision, from inertia of will and spirit. By your life-giving Spirit, lead us out of isolation and oppression, redeem and restore us.

You are the life within us, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

We thank you for the gift of life, with all its blessings and sorrows. Shield the joyous, comfort and strengthen those in any need or trouble. Bless those who will be born today and those who will die, that joining with the company of all your saints we may rejoice in one unending song of praise.

In you alone we have eternal life, O God.

**Guide us in your grace.**

Celebrant:

We offer these our prayers and thanksgivings to you, O God, the source of all that is true and holy, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

### **Celebrant and People**

**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.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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**

**Celebrant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

### **OFFERTORY**

*A Peaceful Pastorate*

S. Vann

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving** (Eucharistic Prayer B)

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is added.) Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Celebrant and People**

**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**

**Hosana in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

Then the Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People**

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

**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**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God

We welcome those viewing online to make their Communion spiritually. Tell the Lord that you open your hearts, minds, and lives to Him. Remember the promise of Scripture, “The Lord says, Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door, I will come in and eat with them.

Let us pray.

## **Celebrant and People**

**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.**

## **THE BLESSING**

### **RECESSIONAL**

*Jesus lives*

Hymn 194

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People            Thanks be to God.**

### **VOLUNTARY**

*Postlude*

L Boëllmann

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for their 50th wedding anniversary, by Ann and John Hine.

*You are invited to choose a Sunday and make a donation to the Flower Fund so that a Memorial or Thanksgiving event can be observed. The required donation for two arrangements is \$120; if the cost is prohibitive, maybe a joint donation can be made? Please contact Vicky Bailey at the Church Office at [admin@ststephenschurch.com](mailto:admin@ststephenschurch.com) or 919-734-4263 to send details of the Memorial/Thanksgiving. Dates are available for August 29 and onwards.*

## **SERVING TODAY**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Polk Culpper

**Organist:** Paul Armstrong

**Readers:** Ed Futch & Ann Hine

**Recording:** Xena Markine-Morrison

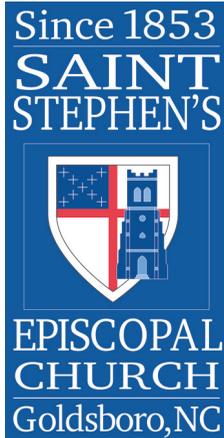
**Usher:** Ed Futch

## **CHURCH STAFF**

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**CLERGY**

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

**DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Xena Markine-Morrison  
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**VESTRY**

Senior Warden: Lori Allen; Junior Warden: Mike Saylor;  
Will Bland, Tom Brown, Duffy Fleming, Kathy Harris, Mary Susan Heath,  
Mary Lee Jeffreys, Katherine MacDonald, Paul Rutter, Leon Stockton and Sallie Wahl