

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
DAILY MORNING PRAYER
RITE TWO



Sunday, September 24, 2023, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Voluntary

Improvisation on *Lauda animae*

Processional Hymn 410 (10:30 a.m. only) (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Lauda animae Venite - S35

Officiant: The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. John 4:23

Confession of Sin

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

People: Come let us adore him.

Venite (S35 — 10:30 a.m. service only)

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
People: Come let us adore him.

The Psalm

People may be seated

(Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse)

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Confitemini Domino*

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.**

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

**6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

**38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.**

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

**40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.**

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

**42. For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.**

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

**44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,**

45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

**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 LESSONS *(Please remain seated.)*

The First Reading: *Exodus 16:2-15*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard

the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

9 The First Song of Isaiah (*Hymn 679 - 10:30am service only*)

Ecce, Deus Isaiah 12:2-6

Officiant and People all standing

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

People may be seated

The Epistle: *Philippians 1:21-30*

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh

is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

13 A Song of Praise (*S236 - 10:30am service only*)

Benedictus es, Domine

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Officiant and People all standing

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

People may be seated

The Gospel: *Matthew 20:1-16*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual

daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People:

**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.**

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

Officiant: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Officiant: We pray this morning for those on our Parish Prayer List; for Gene Carpenter Margie Clarke, Glenda Futch, Ed Futch, Debby Hickey, Nancy Norwood, John Peacock, Marguerite Pennington, Pat Sasser, Marjorie Snyder, Dorisenia Thompson, Betsy Toomey, John Wolfe.

Officiant: We pray for this parish and all its ministries. May we, as a community, hear your call in our lives and grant us your grace to be the light of Christ in a dark and dangerous world.

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest; Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Officiant: I bid your prayers of intercession or thanksgiving now. You may offer them silently or aloud.

Hymn 551 (10:30 a.m. only) (Please stand as you are able.)

Rise up, ye saints of God

Festal Song

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People all standing

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 522 (10:30 a.m. only) (Please stand as you are able.)

Glorious things of thee are spoken

Austria

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in G

JS Bach

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Officiant: Michael Headon

10:30 a.m. Service

Officiant: Bob Cagle

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

Eucharistic Visitors: Bob and Jan Cagle

Ushers: Jerry and Mary Cottrell



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CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

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CHURCH STAFF

Organist and Choirmaster: Patrick Ritsch

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Church Sexton: Alfie Barnes

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Katherine MacDonald, Junior Warden: Betty Duncan,

Treasurer: Bob Cagle, Clerk: Nancy Headen

Other Vestry Members Include: Meredith Adams, Don Barnes, Will Bland, Todd Brantley

Susan Brown, Betty Duncan, David Huard, Gwyn LaFave, Larry Tingen, Sallie Wahl