

The Sixteenth Sunday After 
Pentecost 

September 20th, 2020



St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church + Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

Opening Hymn

#427 “*When Morning Gilds the Skies*” verses 1&2

*When morning gilds the skies,
my heart, awaking, cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call,
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
hath none that can compare with:
Jesus Christ be praised!*

Opening Acclamation

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.**

Glory to God

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 of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

The First Reading

A Reading from Philippians.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

(Philippians 1:21-30)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

105:1-6

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

Sing to him, sing praises to him,

and speak of all his marvelous works.

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

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

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

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

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according
to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing

around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

(Matthew 20:1-16)

The Gospel of The Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
especially those on our prayer list and the suffering people of
the world.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the
needy.**

For those serving in the armed forces, those wounded or
recovering in veterans' hospitals, those serving in combat and
those serving in safety.

For the peace and protection of God.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the
Truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Greg our Bishop, David,
Rob, and Doug our clergy, and for all bishops and other
ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For blessings upon Matt and Hilary.
For healthy babies and a safe delivery.

For our schools, scouts, and all of the children and youth of
our parish.

**For your grace and their ever growing knowledge and love
of you.**

For our parish family.

Bind us together and draw us always closer to you.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;

(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

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

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.

+ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with repentance and faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and

strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The Announcements

Sunday services will continue at 9am, 10am, and 11am with a Wednesday morning service at 9am. The 9am Sunday service will continue to be livestreamed on an ongoing basis.

Sunday School starts THIS MORNING at 10am!

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 105:1

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

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 5:2)

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”

*Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks.*

The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee.

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

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.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

+ On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

+ Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

+ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Family Song

*Here we are, gathered together as a family
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of kings*

*We sing Abba, Father, holy is Your name
Abba, Father, holy is Your name.*

These are 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, with thanksgiving.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread.

“Give Thanks”

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, “I am strong”
Let the poor say, “I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us”*

*And now let the weak say, “I am strong”
Let the poor say, “I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us”
Give thanks.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

Anniversaries This Week:

Jack and Sally Flanagan, Michael and Ellen Simms,
Rick and Ginger Rahn

Birthdays This Week:

Tom Crawford, John Moses, Nelson Rumpel, Roy Reynolds,
Brieann Peterson, Jarrett Sabine, BreAnna Steadman-Jones

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God

Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

#427 *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”* verses 4&5

*Ye nations of mankind,
in this your concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

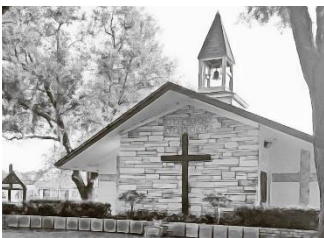
*Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Sing, suns and stars of space,
sing, ye that see his face,
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er,
both now and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!*

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



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