

The Seventeenth Sunday After   
Pentecost ✠

September 27th, 2020

*Do nothing*  
from selfish ambition or conceit

*but in  
humility*  
count others more significant  
than yourselves.

*Let each of you*  
look not only to his own  
interests, but also to the  
*interests*  
Philippians 2:3-4 *of others*



**St. Stephen's**  
Episcopal Church † Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

Opening Hymn  
#574 “*Before Thy Throne*” verses 1&2

*Before thy throne, O God, we kneel:  
give us a conscience quick to feel,  
a ready mind to understand  
the meaning of thy chastening hand;  
whate'er the pain and shame may be,  
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.*

*Search out our hearts and make us true;  
help us to give to all their due.  
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,  
from sins which make the heart grow cold,  
wean us and train us with thy rod;  
teach us to know our faults, O God.*

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.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

*(Philippians 2:1-13)*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

78:1-4

Hear my teaching, O my people;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our  
forefathers have told us,  
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy  
deeds and the power of the LORD,  
and the wonderful works he has done.

+ 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 entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching,  
the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him.  
“By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked.  
“And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also  
ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by  
what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—  
where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human  
origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said,

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

*(Matthew 21:23-32)*

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 Marcie and Tim, and Angie and Vince.  
**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 at 10am and Coffee Hour after each service.

**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION THIS MORNING**

*Drive-Thru Pet Blessing next Sunday*

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

Philippians 2:10

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

### The Offertory

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

(Ephesians 5:2)

*#707 "Take My Life and Let It Be" verse 1*

*Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,*

*let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.*

## 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.  
Drive Thru- Communion today from Noon to 12:30pm

*“#707 “Take My Life and Let It Be” verses 1&2*

*Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.*

## 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:

Fr. Rob and Nancy Moses, Jack and Carol Vonesh,  
Nelson and Shirley Rumpel

#### Birthdays This Week:

Francisco Gomez, Frank Hodges,  
Julie Petterson, Lynn Whitt

### 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  
*#574 “Before Thy Throne” verses 3&4*

*For sins of heedless word and deed,  
for pride ambitious to succeed,  
for crafty trade and subtle snare  
to catch the simple unaware,  
for lives bereft of purpose high,  
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.*

*Let the fierce fires which burn and try,  
our inmost spirits purify:  
consume the ill; purge out the shame;  
O God, be with us in the flame;  
a newborn people may we rise,  
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.*

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!