

The Twenty-second Sunday After   
**Pentecost**

November 1st, 2020

**The Saints of God Are Just Folk Like Me**



**And I Mean to Be One Too**



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

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

Opening Hymn  
#287, “For All the Saints” verses 1&2

*For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

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.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### The First Reading

A Reading from Revelation.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding

palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

*(Revelation 7:9-17)*

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

## **The Psalm**

149:1-4

**Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song;**

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise his Name in the dance;  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people  
and adorns the poor with victory.

+ 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.**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a  
mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and  
he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in  
spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those  
who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the  
meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who  
hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed  
are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed  
are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say

all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*(Matthew 5:1-12)*

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 Tyler and Sadee, and in thanksgiving with 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 at 10am and Coffee Hour after each service.  
**Check your FYI for this week's Stewardship Word Search!**

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.  
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

## The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

*#293, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" verse 1*

*I sing a song of the saints of God,  
patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died  
for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God-and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.*

## 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 in the multitude of your saints, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

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.

#293, *"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"* verses 2&3

*They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,  
and his love made them strong;*

*and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,  
the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,  
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
and there's not any reason, no, not the least  
why I shouldn't be one too.*

*They lived not only in ages past,  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints  
who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
for the saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too.*

### 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

#### Birthdays This Week:

Zachary Abbey, Terry Millican, Mike Whitt,  
Penny Schmidt, Allison Ling, Timothy Peoples

## 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.

## For Elections

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; 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

#287, "For All the Saints" verses 4&5

*O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia!*

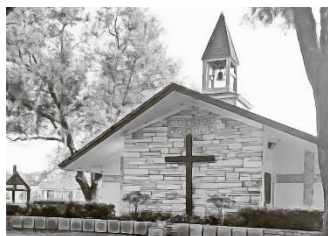
*O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

## 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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## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Road 540A  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
(863) 646-6115 office  
ststoffice@gmail.com  
centralfloridachurch.com

