

The Twenty-third Sunday After   
Pentecost

November 8th, 2020



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

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

## Opening Hymn

#561, “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” verses 1&2

*Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;  
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss:  
from victory unto victory his army shall he lead,  
till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.*

*Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;  
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day:  
ye that are his now serve him against unnumbered foes;  
when duty calls, or danger,  
and strength to strength oppose.*

## 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, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The First Reading

A Reading from First Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

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

## The Psalm

78:1-7

**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.

He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

+ 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, “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed

their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' They replied 'No, there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

*(Matthew 25:1-13)*

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;  
**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

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus  
those who have fallen asleep in him.

## The Offertory

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

### *“Blessed Assurance”*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

## 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.**

*“Blessed Assurance”*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

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:

Jerry and Katy Jerome, Richard and Debbie Abbey,  
Dugan and Judy Wilder

Birthdays This Week:

Ainslee Westberry, Alexandra Peterson, Nancy Moses,  
Marley Binnion, John McArthur, Debbie Rattray

**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 Veterans Day**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; 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

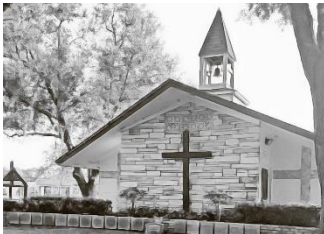
#561, “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” verses 3&4

*Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; stand in his strength alone;  
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:  
put on the Gospel armor, and watching unto prayer,  
when duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.*

*Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; the strife will not be long:  
this day, the noise of battle; the next, the victor's song.  
To valiant hearts triumphant, a crown of life shall be;  
they with the King of glory shall reign eternally.*

### 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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