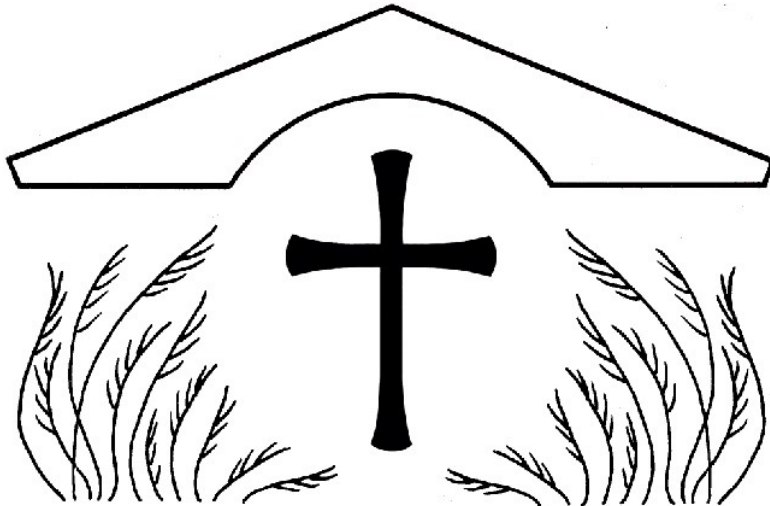


ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021



Ministers
Rector
Deacon
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Minister of Music
Admin. Assistant

The People of the Parish
The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris
The Rev. Kate Sefton
Elizabeth Herold
Meg Nalley
Miles McKenzie
Jessica Venezia

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Gathering of the Community

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

O Word of God

please stand

O Word of God, come in - to this space. O
Word of God, come send us your grace.
O - pen our minds; show us your truth.
Trans - form our lives a - new.

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Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Open my Heart

Ana Hernandez

Open my heart, open my heart!

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The Service of the Word

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

God of welcome, your people are called to be distinct not by width of separation but depth of hospitality and peace within our lives: rout out our resentment and free us to welcome all who work for life and liberation, whatever path they tread; through Jesus Christ, the companion of many ways. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS (11:4-6,10-16,24-29)

please be seated

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19:7-14

- 7 Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; *
your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**
- 8 Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; *
your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; *
your judgments are true and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often one offends? *
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, *
O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

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GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:38-50

please stand

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

 The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. LA King

please be seated

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

You, O Lord, you are close: your ways are truth
You, O Lord, you are close: with me forever.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Megan; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. For what else do you pray?

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. For what else do you pray?

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. For what else do you pray?

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. For what else do you pray?

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially... Pray for those who have died. For whom do you pray?

I ask your prayers for the sick and all who face challenge or hardship, especially... For whom do you pray?

I ask your thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life especially... For what do you give thanks?

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

For Thy Gracious Blessing



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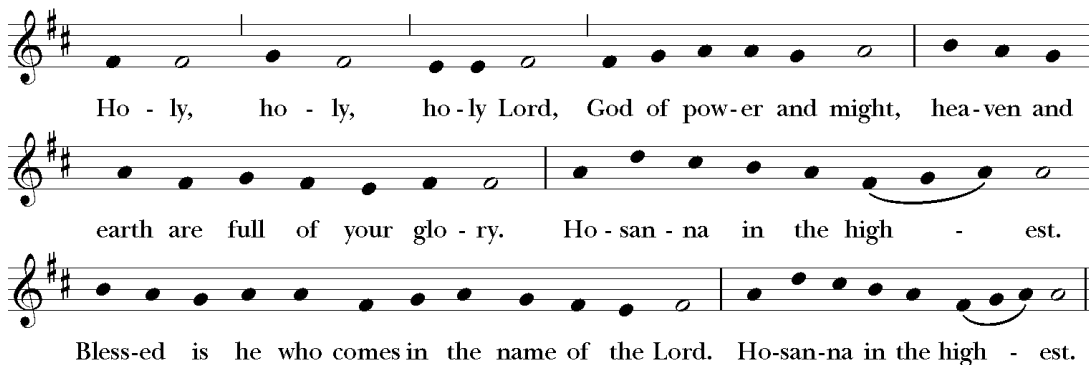
*The offering plate can be found on the table
in front of the sanctuary doors.*

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A - *The Book of Common Prayer*

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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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.**

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Heavenly Father, loving God,
We place our lives in your hands.**

**Jesus Christ, the Word of truth,
We place our lives in your hands.**

**Holy Spirit, flame of love,
We place our lives in your hands.**

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For a Birthday

Watch over thy child(ren), 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* heart(s) may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary

Almighty God, Giver of life and love: Bless those whom You have joined in holy matrimony. Grant them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their life together, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. And so knit their wills together in Your Will, and their spirits in Your Spirit, that they may show forth Your Love and abide in Your Peace all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.