



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MORNING PRAYER: RITE II  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST

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*"Vineyards with a View of Auvers" by Vincent van Gogh, 1890*

*The officiant begins with a passage of scripture*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

## **Confession of Sins**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

***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.***

*The Officiant alone says*

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

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

*Officiant and People*

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

***Venite Psalm 95:1-7***

***Come, let us sing to the Lord;***

***let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.***

***Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving***

***and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.***

***For the Lord is a great God,***

***and a great King above all gods.***

***In his hand are the caverns of the earth,***

***and the heights of the hills are his also.***

*The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

## **Psalm 19**

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
  
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
  
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,
  
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.
  
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
  
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
  
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
  
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the Lord is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the Lord 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 he 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 Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

**[The people may be seated for the readings]**

## **The Word of God**

### **A Reading from the Book of Exodus (20:1 – 4, 7 – 9, 12 - 20)**

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

*Reader*        *The Word of the Lord*

*People*        *Thanks be to God*

### **Canticle 9 - The First Song of Isaiah**

Surely, it is God who saves me;

    I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

    and he will be my Savior.

Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing

from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day, you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

**A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians (3:4b – 14),**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord  
***People***            ***Thanks be to God***

## **Canticle 18 - A Song to the Lamb**

Splendor and honor and kingly power  
    are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is,  
    and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
    for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation,  
    a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne,  
    and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,  
    for ever and for evermore.

## **A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (21:33 - 46),**

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

    "The stone that the builders rejected  
        has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
    and it is amazing in our eyes?"

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        *Thanks be to God*

## Silent Reflection

The Apostles' Creed [Please stand, as you are able]

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended to the dead.*

*On the third day he rose again.*

*He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,*

*the holy catholic Church,*

*the communion of saints,*

*the forgiveness of sins,*

*the resurrection of the body,*

*and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## The Prayers

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*        *And also with you.*

*Officiant*        Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

*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 Prayers of the People – Form VI [The people may be seated]**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

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;

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

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, and Marty our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Mark's, Anaconda and the Rev. Theresa Kelley Bergmann, Rector and the Reverends Mary Alice & Jim Jones, Deacons. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In our St. Stephen's community, we pray for Danielle, David, Jennie, Jerry, Michael, Richard, and Woody. We also pray for our adopted unit at The Billings Clinic hospital.

Hear us, Lord;  
***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*Silence*  
*The People may add their own 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.  
*Silence*  
*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

*The Officiant then concludes with the following prayer*  
O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*Collect of the Day*  
Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we

are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Collect for Sundays*

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Prayer for the Parish*

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Prayer for Mission*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Peace**

*All stand. The Officiant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People And also with you.*

**Announcements**

**The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness*

*to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

*Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.*

*Then may be said*

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.

*People*          **Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant concludes with the following*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

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