



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER: RITE II

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST – PROPER 8

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #706 - In your mercy, Lord, you called me*

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your
sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
grace you set me free; for my heart would
grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that
still en - thrall - ed me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

Words: Josiah Conder (1789-1855); alt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Halton Holgate*, William Boyce (1711-1779).

The officiant begins

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

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

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 Priest alone stands and says,

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive you 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.

Jubilate Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

*For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

1 I will cry aloud to God; *

I will cry aloud, and he will hear me.

2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; *

my hands were stretched out by night and did not tire;

I refused to be comforted.

11 I will remember the works of the Lord, *

and call to mind your wonders of old time.

12 I will meditate on all your acts *

and ponder your mighty deeds.

13 Your way, O God, is holy; *

who is so great a god as our God?

14 You are the God who works wonders *

and have declared your power among the peoples.

15 By your strength you have redeemed your people, *

the children of Jacob and Joseph.

16 The waters saw you, O God;

the waters saw you and trembled; *

the very depths were shaken.

17 The clouds poured out water;

the skies thundered; *

your arrows flashed to and fro;

18 The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

your lightnings lit up the world; *

the earth trembled and shook.

19 Your way was in the sea,
and your paths in the great waters, *
yet your footsteps were not seen.

20 You led your people like a flock *
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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 Second Book of Kings (2:1 - 2, 6 - 14),

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Canticle 11 - The Third Song of Isaiah

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
 and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;
 deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
 and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
 by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
 The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,
 ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
 and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
 by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,
 and your God will be your glory.

***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 Galatians (5:1, 13 – 25),

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #359 - God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!*
(verses 1-3)

1 God of the pro - phets, bless the pro - phets' heirs! E - li - jah's
 2 A - noint them pro - phets! Teach them thine in - tent: to hu - man
 3 A - noint them priests! help them to in - ter - cede with all thy

1 man - tle o'er E - li - sha cast: each age for thine own sol - emn
 2 need their quick - ened hearts a - wake; fill them with power, their lips make
 3 roy - al priest - hood born of grace; through them thy Church pre - sents in

1 task pre - pares, make each one strong - er, no - bler than the last.
 2 el - o - quent for right - eous - ness that shall all e - vil break.
 3 word and deed Christ's one true sac - ri - fice with thank - ful praise.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (9:51 – 62),

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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 V [The people may be seated]

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Here and after every petition the People respond - **Lord, have mercy.***

For Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, for Marty Stebbins our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the The Church of the Province of Burma (Myanmar).

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for Emmanuel, Miles City and Sharon Hatley, Senior Warden. We also pray for the campers and staff of Camp Marshall.

In the Saint Stephen's community, we pray for Megan Schillinger and Kerrie Sheets.

Within our parish family, we pray for Brian, Danielle, Darlene, Ellie, Joe, Justin, Katie, Laura, and Libby. We also pray for our hosts and partners - the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #458 - My song is love unknown (verses 1-3)*

1 My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but
 * 3 Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing, re -

1 to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O
 2 men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know. But
 3 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then

1 who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 2 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.
 3 "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), alt.

Music: *Love Unknown*, John Ireland (1879-1962)

66. 66. 44. 44

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; 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*

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #559* - Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

1 Lead us, heaven - ly Fa - ther, lead us o'er the world's tem -
 2 Sa - vior, breathe for - give - ness o'er us; all our weak - ness
 3 Spi - rit of our God, de - scend - ing, fill our hearts with

pes - tuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
 thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth be - fore us;
 heaven - ly joy; love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,

for we have no help but thee, yet pos - ses - sing
 thou didst feel its keen - est woe; yet un - fear - ing,
 plea - sure that can nev - er cloy; thus pro - vid - ed,

ev - ery bless - ing, if our God our Fa - ther be.
 per - se - ver - ing, to thy pas - sion thou didst go.
 par - doned, guid - ed, noth - ing can our peace des - troy.

Words: James Edmeston (1791-1867), alt. Music: *Dulce carmen*, melody from *An Essay on the Church Plain Chant*, 1782; adapt. *Collection of Motetts or Antiphons*, ca 1840; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Churchy Term of the Week – Disciple, Discipleship

A follower or pupil of a great master. A disciple is a learner who follows a movement or teacher and helps to spread the master’s teaching. The term is used in various senses and contexts in the NT to indicate the followers of Jesus. Although it is used at times relative to the Twelve, it is more frequently used as a general term for the first followers of Jesus. Lk 14:27 (NRSV) records Jesus’ statement that “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” The term is also used in Acts to describe those who were Christian believers after Jesus’ death and resurrection. At Antioch the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). The term “Christian” came to be the usual term for a Christian believer. The term “disciple” does not appear in the epistles. However, the concept of discipleship (being a Christian disciple) continues to be an important part of the Christian life. For example, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) considered discipleship in *Die Nachfolge*, or *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937, trans, by Reginald H. Fuller, 1948). Bonhoeffer urged that grace without discipleship is “cheap grace,” and that faith must be expressed in obedience.

Adapted from Don S. Armentrout’s *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* Church Publishing Inc., 2000.



“Looking Back - the man at the plow” by James Tissot, ca. 1886-1894



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