



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST – PROPER 18

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #472 - Hope of the world, thou Christ (verses 1-3)*



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est hea - ven,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,



1 speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
2 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
3 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light,



1 Save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
2 still let thy Spi - rit un - to us be giv - en
3 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways



1 who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
2 to heal earth's wounds and end her bit - ter strife.
3 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.

Words: Georgia Harkness (1891-1974). Copyright © 1954. Renewal 1982 by The Hymn Society (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Donne secours*, melody from *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, 1551, harm. Claude Goudimel (1514-1572), alt.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The **PEOPLE** then say

***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.***

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.*** [The people may be seated for the readings]

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (18:1 – 11),

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Psalms 139:1-5, 12-17

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

A Reading from the Letter to Philemon (1 – 21),

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #675 - Take up your cross, the Savior said (verses 1-3)*



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (14:25 - 33)

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [Please stand, as you are able]

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.*

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 Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, and Marty Stebbins our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for All Saints', Big Sky and the Rev. Miriam Schmidt, ELCA Pastor and the Rev. Heidi Jones-Magee, Deacon. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In the Saint Stephen's community, we pray for The Harchariks and Joe Hucke.

The People may add their own petitions

Within our church family, we pray for Danielle, Katie, Laura, and Libby. We also pray for our new hosts and partners – the people of Bethlehem Lutheran, as well as the people of St. John’s United.

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

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

Prayer In 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*** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 824)

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

*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.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.*

The Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Offertory Sentences

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #512 - Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove*

1 Come, gra - cious Spi - rit, heaven - ly Dove, with light and
 2 The light of truth to us dis - play, and make us
 3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing Way, nor let us
 4 Lead us to heaven, that we may share full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove; be thou our guard - ian,
 know and choose thy way; plant ho - ly fear in
 from his pre - cepts stray; lead us to ho - li -
 joy for ev - er there; lead us to God, our

thou our guide; o'er ev - ery thought and step pre - side.
 ev - ery heart, that we from thee may ne'er de - part.
 ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God.
 fin - al rest, to be with him for ev - er blest.

Words: Simon Browne (1680-1732), alt. Music: *Mendon*, melody from *Methodist Harmonist*, 1981; adapt. and harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Anthem

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer A [Please stand, as you are able]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant 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 by water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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. _____

Then the Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Breaking of the Bread

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant then says

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.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]

*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.*

Blessing

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #635* - If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Unison or harmony

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
 2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
 faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
 sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The music is written in a simple, homophonic style suitable for unison or harmony.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt. Music: *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

Celebrant
People

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



"Sermon on the Mount, detail" by Henrik Olrik, 1860



Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Office and Mailing Address:

1645 Avenue D, Suite D

Billings, Montana 59102

Office Phone: (406) 259-5017

Email: ststephensmt@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at ststephensbillings.org

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