

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost — Proper Nine

10:30am — July 7, 2024

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Cathy Gero and Linda & Joe Merkens
in memory Eleanor R. Gero, loving wife, mother & grandmother — a child of God.
We love you and miss you always.*

*Upon being seated we ask that you extend a respectful courtesy
to others by speaking quietly and silencing all cell phones.*

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

So often, we are confused as to what God's will might be. Equally often, we've done everything except ask God. Going to God with a question, open-handed, neither clinging to something as an expectation nor closed to new things that we might receive, presupposes a God who is alive, who communicates, who has desires and wills, and wants to share them with us. Br. Lucas Hall, SSJE

Prelude *America* Thesaurus Musicus

Please stand as you are able.

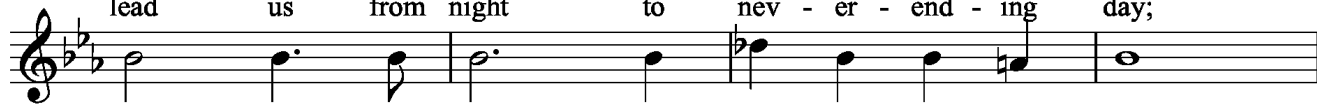
Entrance Hymn #718 “God of our fathers” *National Hymn*



1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past,
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some way,



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay,
thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,



our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

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 Savior. **Amen.**

Priest and People:

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

Priest: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Ezekiel 2:1-5

Reader: Sally Drake

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 123

Reader: Mark Bridgeford

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Reader: Mark Bridgeford

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #530

“Spread, O spread, thou mighty word”

Gott sei dank



1. Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2. word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3. word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4. word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5. Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,



that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

The Gospel Reading Mark 6:1-13

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

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

Reader: Mary Bennett

Great is our God, and highly to be praised! Let us offer our prayers, saying, "Be our guide, O God, for evermore: send us out to do the work you have given us to do."

O God, send us out to proclaim the good news of repentance and forgiveness in Jesus' name. By the sufficiency of your grace, comfort and strengthen your Church. We pray especially for our bishop and our clergy. May all those who take council for the Church be wholly devoted to you.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

O God, send us out, that your praise might reach to the ends of the earth. May all know your right hand to be full of justice; defend the poor and oppressed.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

O God, all that you touch is beautiful; your holy presence brings joy to all the earth: bless your creation with prosperity.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

O God, we thank you for our parks and places of recreation. Bless them to be places of welcome and hospitality. Bless us with opportunities to take pleasure in beauty and leisure.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

O God, send us out into the world to pray for and love those in need. Strengthen our faith in your healing power. We pray to you for the sick and suffering today because we trust in your love. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Brian, Stacey, Michael, and Leslie and her family.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

O God, you have established your heavenly kingdom forever. Bring us, with all who have died, into the eternal joy of that kingdom. We pray for all who have died, especially Stephanie Jones and The Rev. Andrew Foster.

Silence

Intercessor: Be our guide, O God, for evermore:

People: **Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.**

A Prayer for Independence Day

God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Priest:

O Gracious 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, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

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

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to be celebrating the following birthdays: Jeremy Hunt, Kyra Stapp & Emily Torres on July 8th, William Hendley, Daniel Johnson & Charlotte Miller on July 12th, and Mike Sayre on July 13th.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

Battle Hymn of the Republic (vs. 1, 2 & 4)
St. Stephen's Pickup Choir

W. Steffe

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

Chords: G, D, Em, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, G, Am, G/B, C, F#dim/A, Em, D/F#, G, C#dim/ED, C, G/D, D7, G, G7, C, G

Priest: God be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Priest: Lift up your hearts.
 People: **We lift them to God.**
 Priest: Let us give thanks.
 People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus

Baity

Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,-
 Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might.. Heav'n and
 earth are full of your glo - ry, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Blest is he, blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
 Blest is he, blest is he whocomes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho-
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high est. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho



Standing or kneeling as you are able.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest and people say together:

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hym #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

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.

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 to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive
the Bread and Wine made holy.*

*The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power.
Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

O Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For — if you lead me, I can - not
 stray. Lord, — let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. —

1. I am weak — and I need thy strength and power to — help me
 2. Help me tread — in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my aid when
 3. I am lost — if you take your hand from me, I am blind with -

o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me through the dark - ness thy
 Sa - tan and sin op - press; I am put - ting all — my
 out — thy light to see; Lord, just al - ways let me thy

face to see, Lead me, O Lord, — lead me. —
 trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, — lead me. —
 ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, — lead me. —

Hymn #637

“How firm a foundation”

Lions

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5. "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 For I am thy God, and will still — give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee — o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be — thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert — to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold — to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, ne - ver for - sake."

Please stand as you are able.
Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Support one another, encourage one another,
Wait for the weak, pick up the fallen.
When you are together, remember what it is like to travel alone.
When you are alone, remember what it is like to travel together.
And wherever you are, may you remember the God who always goes
before you and with you; God Almighty, the one holy and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #484

“Praise the Lord through every nation”

Wachet auf



1. Praise the Lord through ev - ery na - tion; his ho - ly arm hath
2. Je - sus, Lord, our Cap - tain glo - rious, o'er sin, and death, and



wrought sal - va - tion; ex - alt him on this Fa - ther's throne.
hell vic - to - rious, wis - dom and might to thee be - long;



Praise your King, ye Chris - tian le - gions, who now pre - pares in
we con - fess, pro - claim, a - dore thee; we bow the knee, we



heav'n - ly re — gions un - fail - ing man - sions for his own; with
fall be - fore — thee; thy love hence - forth shall be — our song. The

voice and min-strel - sy ex - tol his ma - jes - ty: Al - le - lu - ia! His
 cross mean-while we bear, the crown ere-long to wear: Al - le - lu - ia! Thy

praise shall sound all — na - ture round, and hymns on ev - ery tongue a-bound.
 reign ex - tend world with - out end; let praise from all to thee — a-scend.

Dismissal

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

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.

Spiritual Communion: St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787

From: *The Hymnal 1982* #484 "Praise the Lord through every nation", Words: Rhijnvis Feith (1753—1824); para. James Montgomery (1771—1854), alt. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494—1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556—1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685—1750), #S 154 Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem; Christ our Passover Music: From *New Plainsong* David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981, G.L.A. Publications, Inc. #530 "Spread, O spread thou mighty word" Words: Jonathan Friedrich Bahmaier (1774—1841); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898—1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867—1944), alt. St. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895—1984) Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergel (1793—1870). #718 "God of our fathers", Words: Daniel Crane Roberts (1841—1907). Music: *National Hymn*, George William Warren (1828—1902). #637 "How firm a foundation" Words: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt. Music: *Lyons*, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737—1806); desc. Lois Fyfe (b. 1927).

From *Lift Every Voice and Sing It* #194 *Lead Me, Guide Me*, Words: Doris M. Akers (b. 1922) Music: Doris M. Akers; arr. Richard Smallwood Copyright: © Doris Akers. Copyright renewed, all rights controlled by Unichappell Music, Inc. (Rightsong Music Publisher). International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

Sanctus #4—Judith M. Baily. Copyright ©2009—Celestial Melodies Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.

Doxology—Music: Old 100th, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).