

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 14
10:00 A.M.
AUGUST 7, 2022

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Prayer of Meditation

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

All of us, at one time or another, have experienced setbacks in life – sometimes through our own fault, sometimes through the fault of others, or through some sickness or tragedy. Look beyond these setbacks to see and trust God's faithfulness. God has a way of overcoming evil with good, of conquering hatred with love, of countering despair with hope. God will carry us through it all. -Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

Prelude

I'm Bound for the Promise Land

R. M. McIntosh

Please stand as you are able.

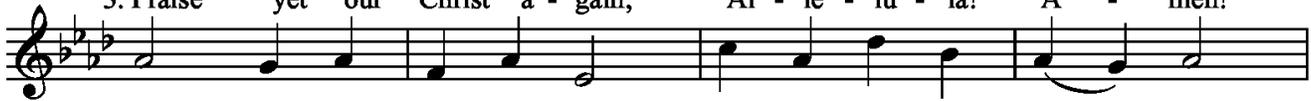
Entrance Hymn

"Come, Christians, join to sing"

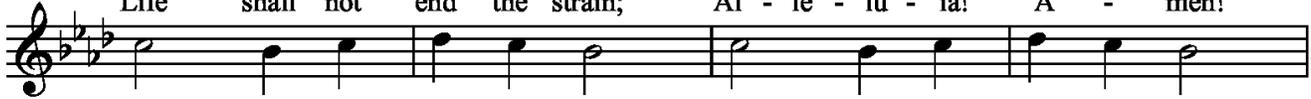
Madrid



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 He is our guide and friend; our souls he will at - tend;
 On hea - ven's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



Praise is his gra - cious choice; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 His love shall nev - er end; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Genesis 15:1-6

Readers: Shari Schlaman

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33:12-22

Reader: Julie Hagerty

- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
- 13 The Lord looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

The Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Reader: Julie Hagerty

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as

the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #635

"If thou but trust in God to guide thee"

Wer nur den lieben Gott

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through all thy ways,
 2. Sing, pray, and keep his ways un-serv-ing; so do thine own part faith-ful-ly,
 He'll give thee strength what-e'er be-tide thee, and bear thee through the e-vil days.
 and trust his Word, though un-de-serv-ing; thou yet shalt find it true for thee;
 Who trusts in God's un-chang-ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
 God nev-er yet for-sook in need the soul that trust-ed him in-deed.

The Gospel Reading Luke 12:32-40

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The 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: Ken Higginbotham

Do not be afraid, children of Abraham; God is your shield. So, let us approach our God, saying, "Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us; we put our trust in you."

As your Church, we confess that we are strangers seeking a homeland. Do not be ashamed to call yourself our God and make us worthy of that heavenly city you have prepared for us.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Mighty God, you behold all of the people in the world. May all tribes and nations come to understand that our strength is not found in violence or weapons but in the power of your love.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Creator God, you are the one who made the stars of heaven and the sand by the seashore. We bless and honor you for the gifts of creation.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Defend the orphans, O God; rescue the oppressed; show compassion to those who feel lonely or isolated. And let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Comfort and heal the sick and the sorrowful. May they know that you are their help and shield. Deliver them from all fear and help them to trust in your righteousness. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Bill.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. We praise you, God, that those who have died, especially George Krejci, are welcomed home, where they will dwell with all men and women of faith in the city you have prepared for them.

Silence

Intercessor: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us;

People: We put our trust in you.

Priest:

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 your 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 Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation who are present are encouraged to remain at their seats to pass the peace.

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 celebrate the following birthdays: Heather Bernabe on August 7th, Brett Schlaman on August 8th, Rebecca and Rachel Albert-Hendley and Lain Nelson on August 12th, Judith Baity on August 13th. We also celebrate the 48th wedding anniversary of Miriam and Marv Aardahl on August 3rd.

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 Hymn #17

Keep Your Lamps
St. Stephen's Pick-Up Choir

Negro Spiritual

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Old 100th

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures," with chords G, D, Em, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em above it. The second staff contains the second line: "here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -" with chords C, G, D, Em, D, G, Am, G/B, C, F#dim/A above it. The third staff contains the final line: "bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men." with chords Em, D/F#, G, C#dim/ED, C, G/D, D7, G, G7, C, G above it. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus Hymn

Judith M. 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
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est!

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Priest and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Stephen, and all your people, into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Priest and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

And now, 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 Hymn #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 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:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion Hymn #316

“This is the hour of banquet and of song”

Canticum refectionis

1. This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 2. Too soon we rise; we go our sev - eral ways;
 3. Feast af - ter feast thus comes and pass - es by,

this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread for me;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone,
 yet, pass - ing, points to the glad feast a - bove,

here let me feast, and feast - ing, still pro - long the
 the Bread and Wine con - sumed: yet our days thou
 giv - ing us fore - taste of the fes - tal joy, the

brief, bright hour of fel - low - ship with thee.
 still art here with us, our Shield and Sun.
 Lamb's great mar - riage feast of bliss and love.

LEVAS #100

Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door

Negro Spiritual

Chorus:

Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door; — some - bod - y's
 knock - in' at your door; — O sin - ner, why don't you
 an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock - in at your door. —

Verses:

1. Knocks like Je - sus, Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door; —
 2. Can't you hear him?
 3. Je - sus calls you,
 4. Can't you trust Him?

Knocks like Je - sus, Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door; — O —
 Can't you hear him?
 Je - sus calls you,
 Can't you trust Him?

sin - ner, why don't you an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock - in at your door. —

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

May God who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony.
May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life; so that with one voice you may glorify God.
May the Spirit give to you and to all you love
comfort and peace, light and joy, safety and wisdom.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the one,
holy and undivided Trinity be among you
and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn #637

"How firm a foundation"

Lyons

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 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 that by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
and sanc - ti - fy my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
thy dress to con - sume, and thy deep - est dis - tress.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, ne - ver for - sake."

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.

From *The Hymnal 1982*: #635 “If thou but trist in God to guide thee”, Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Wer nur den lieben Gott, Georg Neumark (1621-1681). #316 “This is the hour of banquet and of song” Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), alt. Music: *Canticum refectionis*, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978). #637 “How firm a foundation”, Words: K. in John Ripon’s Selection, 1787, alt. Music: *Lions*, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806);p desc. Lois Fyfe (b. 1927). #S154 Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950).

From *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*: #100 *Somebody’s Knockin’ at Your Door*, Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Harm. Copyright © 1992 G. I. A. Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. All Rights Reserved.

From *Wonder, Love and Praise*: #876 Fraction Anthem: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus, Setting: Jack Warren Burnam (b. 1946) © 1986 Jack Warren Burnam

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Come, Christians, join to Sing: Words: Traditional. Music: Madrid, Copyright 1968 by Fred Bock Music Company