

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Proper 19

10:30am — September 17, 2023

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

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

May you know yourself to be a miraculous co-creator with God of the wonders and beauty of creation. And may your work, if only a tiny fraction of it, be a source of joy, pride, and dignity. For in that moment, you will discover what it means to share in the divine life of God. Br. James Koester, SSJE

Prelude

Is Your All on the Altar

Elisha Hoffman

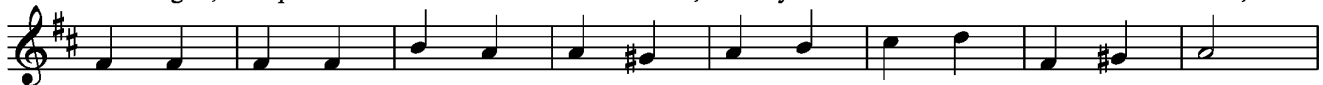
Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #410 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"

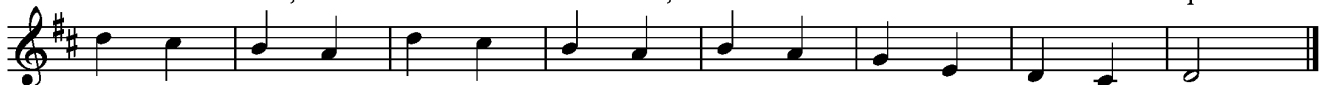
Lauda anima



1. Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
 2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
 3. Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
 praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless:
 in his hand he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Exodus 14:19-31

Reader: Richard Holdredge

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

Psalm 114

Reader: Marianne Zinkewicz

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

Reader: Marianne Zinkewicz

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #397

“Now thank we all our God”

Nun daket alle Gott

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice - es,
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us!
3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,
who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,
who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
e - ter - nal Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;
with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

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

Please be seated.

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: James Webb

Each of us is finally accountable to God, so let us pray, saying, "God, we are in need of your mercy; have patience with us."

God, we acknowledge that we all sin against our siblings in Christ. Forgive us even as we forgive each other. Help us to be merciful to each other in the Church.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

God, we acknowledge that we desire to repay violence with violence. Open our hearts to forgive even those who commit evil acts towards us and those we love. Help us to live mercifully in our world.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

God, we acknowledge we do not always appreciate the diversity of your creation. Teach us to live in peace with each other and with your creation. Help us to live mercifully with our world.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

God, we acknowledge that we do not love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us for placing ourselves as judge over others when judgment belongs to you alone. Help us to accept the great mercy you choose to show others.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

God, we pray for those whose lives are broken by evil. Because of your mercy we believe that whatever befalls them, they belong to you; you care for the brokenhearted. Help us to share your love with all those who are hurting. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Kristen, Ana and Malcolm.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

God, we remember those who have died in violence. We remember especially those men and women of the armed services, innocent bystanders, first responders, and even those we have called enemies. The dead belong to you, O God. Even as we seek your mercy for ourselves, judge all those who have died with mercy, especially Linda Spencer-Walters.

Silence

Intercessor: God, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

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 your sins through our Savior 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: Lisa Browne, John Nelson and Tom Spencer-Walters on September 17th and Kara Satterfield on September 19th, Richard Holdredge on September 22nd, and Ron Kraut on Sept. 23rd.

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

All Things Bright and Beautiful
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

John Rutter

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.

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

Sanctus Hymn # S 125

Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and earth are full of your
 glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Standing or kneeling as you are able.

Holy and gracious God: 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 Creator 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 Savior 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, 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 Stephen and all your saints into the realm of your eternal joy.

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 is yours, Almighty God, now and for 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 WLP #876

“The disciples knew the Lord Jesus”

Burnham

Antiphon

Cantor, then all

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus
in the break - ing of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, Alleluia,
is the communion of the Body of Christ. (*Antiphon*)

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.

Communion Hymn #516

"Come down, O Love divine

Down Ampney

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2. O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,
and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place
and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.



1. O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
 2. O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
 3. He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;
 4. He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;
 5. He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;
 6. Then bless his ho - ly Name, whose grace hath made thee whole,



And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!
 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.
 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.
 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.
 whose lov - ing - kind - ness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
 you have fed us
 with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us
 with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one
 with all your people in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth
 in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 and continue for ever
 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 #690

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

Cwm Rhondda



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy power - ful hand;
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through;
 death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side;



bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er
 strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, shield, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 thee. be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee.

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 Prayer: Amended From a prayer written by Bishop Guy Erwin (*ELCA*)

From *The Hymnal 1982*: #410 “Praise, my soul, the King of heaven”, Words Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847) Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800–1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891–1971) Copyright: Music: Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited. #S 125 Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* Music: From *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Copyright © 1971, 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. #397 “Now thank we all our God”, Words Martin Rinkart (1586–1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt. Music: *Nun danket alle Gott*, melody Johann Cruger (1598–1662); harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889), after Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1947) #516 “Come down, O Love divine”, Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833–1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. #411 “O bless the Lord, my soul!”, Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854); para. of Psalm 103 Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731–1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872). #690 “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”, Words: William Williams (1717–1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722–1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873–1932).

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

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