

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

## The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost — Proper 25

### 10:30am — October 27, 2024

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Colleen Gibbons  
in memory of her beloved husband, Jeffrey Stephen Gibbons.*

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

Faith gives us the power to look earthly reality in the face, to acknowledge its sad and tragic edges, to feel its cruel cuts, to join the chorus of voices that have railed against its outrageous unfairness, and still to feel in our deepest being that it is good and right and a joyful thing for us to be alive on God's good earth. -Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

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**Prelude** *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place* Lanny Wolfe

*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 heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;  
 2. Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress;  
 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 Jeremiah 31:7-9

Reader: John Nelson

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

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

### Psalm 126

Reader: Michael Sayre

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## The Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28

Reader: Michael Sayre

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Gradual Hymn #671

"Amazing Grace" (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

*New Britain*



1. A - maz - ing\_\_ grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a\_\_ wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that\_\_ taught my heart to fear, and grace my\_\_ fears re - lieved;
3. The Lord has\_\_ prom - ised good to me, his word my\_\_ hope se - cures;
4. Through man - y\_\_ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - rea - dy come;
5. When we've been\_\_ there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing\_\_ as the sun,



I once\_\_ was\_\_ lost but now\_\_ am\_\_ found, was blind but\_\_ now I see.  
 how pre - cious did that grace\_\_ ap - pear the hour I\_\_ first be - lieved!  
 he will\_\_ my\_\_ shield and por - tion\_\_ be as long as\_\_ life en - dures.  
 'tis grace\_\_ that\_\_ brought me safe\_\_ thus\_\_ far, and grace will\_\_ lead me home.  
 we've no\_\_ less\_\_ days to sing\_\_ God's praise than when we\_\_ first be - gun.

## The Gospel Reading Mark 10:46-52

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

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

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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: Marianne Zinkewicz

Jesus, our high priest, always lives to make intercession for us. Let us cry out to God, who hears us and prays for us, "We know that you can do all things; Jesus, have mercy on us!"

Jesus, pray for your Church: Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity. Hold us together as one people with one God.

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on us!**

Jesus, pray for the world: may all those who live in fear and terror find their deliverance in you.

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on us!**

Jesus, pray for the creation: you are great and all things created through you are good. May we treasure all the gifts from your hand.

*The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.*

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on us!**

Jesus, pray for those who farm: bless those who toil so that we may have food to eat and clothes to wear. May their needs be met and their work rewarding.

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on us!**

Jesus, pray for those who are sick and struggling: in their affliction hear their cries and save them from all their troubles.

*The congregation may add their own petitions.*

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on us!**

Jesus, keep the dead in your love forever, by offering yourself you have made us holy. Have mercy on us and bring us to your heavenly country, with all your saints, to worship in your presence forever.

*Silence*

Intercessor: We know that you can do all things;

**People: Jesus, have mercy on 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 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 celebrate the following birthdays: Neville Bridgeford on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. Judy Ferkel on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, Debbie Richards on October 29<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Mackey on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, Avery Vestuto on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Vivien Firta on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Stewardship Reflection

Nick Vestuto

## 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

*Jesus, Jesus, How I Trust Him*  
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Jan Reese

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Presentation

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,  
here below. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n above;  
Praise God the Trinity of Love. Amen.

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 Hymn #S 128

Mathias

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.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*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 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 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:*

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 Music

LEVAS #217

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*

Negro Spiritual

1. He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand.

2. He's got you and me sister, etc.

4. He's got the pretty little baby, etc.

3. He's got you and me brother, etc.

5. He's got everybody here, etc.

LEVAS #154

*Taste and See*

James E. Moore, Jr.

*Refrain*

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. O  
Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.  
God's praise shall always be on my lips;  
My soul shall glory in the Lord;  
for God has been so good to me.
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called the Lord and he answered me;  
From all my troubles God set me free.
3. Worship the Lord all you people.  
You'll want for nothing if you ask.  
Taste and see that God is good;  
in God we need put all our trust.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy and Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Savior. Amen.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## Blessing

May God from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with the Holy Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith and that, knowing his love: broad and long, deep and high beyond all knowledge; you may be filled with all the fullness of God. And the blessing of God Almighty, the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn #535

“Ye servants of God”

*Paderborn*

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;  
3. Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!  
4. The let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;  
and still he is high: his pre - sence we have.  
Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.  
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:  
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.  
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.  
fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

## 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*: #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. #S154 Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover Music: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. #S128 Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* Music: William Mathias (b. 1934) Copyright: © 1976, Oxford University Press, Inc. #671 “Amazing Grace” Words: John Newton (1725–1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851–1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919) Copyright: Music: Harmonization copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. #535 “Ye servants of God”, Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt. Music: *Paderborn*, melody from *Catolisch-Paderbornisches Gesang-buch*, 1765; harm. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875–1947).  
From *Lift Every Voice and Sing It*: #217 *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*, Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Hezekiah Brinson, Jr. (b. 1958) Copyright: Arr. © 1990 Hezekiah Brinson, Jr. All Rights Reserved. #154 *Taste and See*, Words: Psalm 34 Music: James E. Moore, Jr. Copyright: © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Chicago, IL. All Rights Reserved.  
*Doxology* — Music: Old 100<sup>th</sup>, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).