



**Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 20, 2020**

St. Stephen's is a Christian community in the making.

At the intersection of what was and what will be, we invite you to gather with us around prayer, food, and the simple conviction that nothing is wasted in God's economy.

All are welcome at St. Stephen's.

Whether you come with great faith or great doubt, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or marital status, whatever your financial status or housing situation – we hope you can find a home with us as we explore together what it means to follow Jesus.

Ministry Team

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ST. STEPHEN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE

Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Sonata in D Minor, Cimarosa
Scott Weidler, keyboard

Opening Hymn

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord:
eternal truth attends thy Word;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Greeting

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you All.

All And also with you.

Priest Almighty God,

**All to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
 and from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our heart
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God on high, and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks, our heavenly King.
We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed in glory bright.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
the sacrificial Lamb, who saves the world from sin,
have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned, now hear our prayer.

You only are the Lord. You only are most high.
You only are the holy one, Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one in glorious light.

Collect of the Day

Priest Almighty God,
 you have created the heavens and the earth,
 and ourselves in your image.
 Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
 and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Exodus 16.2–15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Reader The word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.
Sing to the LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.
Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,
You led out your people with silver and gold;
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light by night.
They asked, and you brought quail, and satisfied them with bread from heaven.
You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.
For you remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant.
So you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.

Second Reading

Philippians 1.21–30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord,
to give heed to what is said by your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 20.1–16

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Priest This is the Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily Dan+

Apostles' Creed

Priest Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Priest Having affirmed our faith,
let us prepare to offer our prayers to God.

Each petition concludes:

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers, the congregation is invited to respond:

Leader Merciful God,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Priest Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence for reflection is observed.

Priest Most merciful God,
**All we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Priest Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Invitation to Christian Stewardship

Just as we are working to find new and meaningful ways to engage in worship as a community, we're also working to find new ways to express our support of our shared community. Instead of a traditional offering, please consider visiting our website and clicking on the 'donate' button to make a contribution, or to sign up for pre-authorized givings.

As always, please do not feel any obligation to give.

Offertory Hymn

In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.

In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.

In the presence of our Lord we gather.

In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then to spread abroad God's mighty Word.

Rise, then to spread abroad God's mighty Word.

Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest God of power,
 the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe.
 Accept our offering this day,
 and help us to live in peace and harmony
 with all your creation,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest It is indeed right to thank you and praise you,
holy and gracious God, creator of all things,
ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life,
for you are the source of all goodness,
rich in mercy and abounding in love;
you are faithful to your people in every generation,
and your word endures for ever.
Therefore, with angels and archangels,
with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven,
we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n _____ and earth _____ are full _____ of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -



san - na in the high - est. Blest is he who comes _____ in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Priest We praise you, merciful Father,
 not as we ought, but as we are able,
 because in your tender love
 you gave the world your only Son,
 in order that the world might be saved through him.
 He made you known by taking the form of a servant,
 healing the sick, liberating the oppressed,
 reaching out to the lost.
 Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross,
 he confronted the power of sin
 and disarmed it for ever.
 In his offering of himself,
 he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice
 for the sins of the whole world.
 Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children;
 by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed,
 Jesus, at supper with his friends,
 took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
 gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat:
 this is my body which is given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, “Drink this all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts
we approach your holy table,
remembering our Saviour’s sacrifice,
and rejoicing in his victory.
Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

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

Priest Send your Holy Spirit on us
that as we receive this bread and this cup
we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.
May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love,
and strengthened in our will to serve others;
and make of our lives, we pray,
a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you,
knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, as our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say,
**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Priest "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.
All Give us this bread forever.

Priest "I am the vine, you are the branches."
All May we dwell in Christ, as Christ lives in us.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us." The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Priest These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

All Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Priest My dear friends,
I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be,
to receive Christ, in communion with the saints,
and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.
Many are made one.

Priest We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,
**All we welcome your presence in us,
and together proclaim our love for you;
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,
with the saints we worship you,
with the angels we adore you,
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.
Come to us, though many,
and make us one in you. Amen.**

During the musical interlude, this may be prayed silently.

Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Priest Ruler of the universe,
all creation yearns for its fulfilment in your Son.
May we who have shared in holy things
grow into maturity in him.
This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Doxology

Priest Glory to God,
**All whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Priest The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, evermore.

All Amen.

Closing Hymn Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praise, song of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Dismissal

Priest Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

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