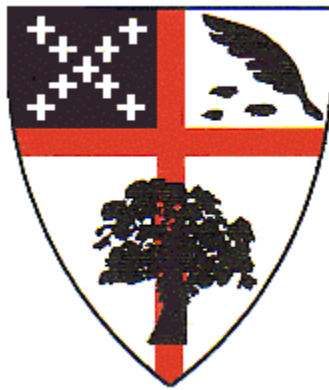


**September 15, 2024  
10:00 AM**

**The Seventeenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

## **Morning Prayer**



### ***St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church***

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard  
San Jose, CA 95139  
(408) 629-1836  
[www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org)

**We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field  
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,  
recognizing his presence in all people,  
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.**

***Opening Hymn:*** Here I am Lord – YSB page 19

***Opening Sentence***

*Officiant:* Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

***Confession***

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
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 neighbors 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**

***Absolution***

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our 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.**

***Opening Versicle*** (*stand*)

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## ***Invitatory Psalm***

*Officiant:* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

*People:* Come let us adore him.

## ***Venite Psalm 95:1-7***

*Officiant and people*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord:\***

**Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving\***

**And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,\***

**And a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,\***

**And the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,\***

**And his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,\***

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.\***

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## ***Psalm of the Day:***

***Psalm 116:1-8***

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.  
7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.  
8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

*Officiant and people*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;\***  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

***The Lessons*** *(please be seated)*

***First Reading***

***Isaiah 50:4-9a***

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens--  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

***Second Reading***

***James 3:1-12***

A reading from the letter of James

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

***Gospel Gradual:*** Seek ye first – YSB page 48

## ***Gospel Reading***

***Mark 8:27-38***

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

***Sermon:*** *God’s Story*, by Danae M. Ashley

***The Apostles’ Creed*** *(please stand as you are able)*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.

### *The Prayers*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

### *Lord's Prayer*

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### *Suffrages*

*Leader:* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*People:* And grant us your salvation.

*Leader:* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*People:* Let your people sing with joy.

*Leader:* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People:* For only in you can we live in safety.

*Leader:* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*People:* And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

*Leader:* Let your way be known upon earth;

*People:* Your saving health among all nations.

*Leader:* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*People:* **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
*Leader:* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People:* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### ***Collect of the Day***

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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***Prayers of the People*** *(please stand as you are able)*

*Leader:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for faithful stewardship: for our Finance Committee; for the diocesan Treasurer; for all congregational commissions on stewardship; for all congregations' treasurers and finance committees; for St. Matthew's of San Ardo.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**



**Leader:** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

*(You are invited to offer your own petitions either silently or aloud.)*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*(You are invited to offer your own petitions either silently or aloud.)*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**All:** **God and Father of all, hear our prayers for all in need and fill your hungry people with bread from heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ***The Peace***

**Officiant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Exchange peace.*

**Offertory:** Surely the presence – YSB page 52

### *Doxology (Old 100<sup>th</sup>):*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

### *The General Thanksgiving*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### ***A Prayer of St. Chrysostom***

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

### ***Announcements*** *(please be seated)*

### ***Prayers for Celebrations***

**Loving Creator, You are the source of life and the source of love. We thank you for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special events today. Watch over them as their days increase, bless and guide them wherever they may be. May your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives, and may your love for the world shine through them and the deep relationships they cherish, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Please stand*

### ***Concluding Versicle and Response***

***Officiant*** Let us bless the Lord.

***People*** Thanks be to God.

### ***Concluding Sentence***

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

***Mission Song:*** Bind us together – YSB page 6

## **Mark your calendar**

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am

## **Vestry Members**

Janet Thorsrud & Susan Zaballos, *Senior Wardens* •  
Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* • Anthony Francis •  
Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk*